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ABSTRACT

This collection of statistical data on the 90 Highland Lao communities in the United States is designed to help members of those communities and people working in refugee-serving agencies to better assist this refugee group. Information was provided by community leaders, state refugee coordinators, and county human resource officials in 1988. Profiles of 71 Hmong communities in 30 states include the estimated size of the population and information about jobs held by refugees and services available to them. The following other Highland Lao populations, residing in 19 communities in eight states, are also profiled: (1) Iu Mien; (2) Khmu; (3) Lahu; (4) Loa Lue; and (5) Lao Tinh. The following national findings are reported: (1) the estimated total population of the Hmong communities was 105,253 and the estimated total population of the other communities was 12,777; (2) most of the highland Lao live in California, Wisconsin, and Minnesota; (3) the self-sufficiency rate nationwide (the percentage of families who do not receive cash assistance) for the Hmong was 37 percent, and the rates for the other groups varied greatly; (4) generational problems, mental health, juvenile delinquency, marital problems, cultural adjustments, and drug abuse were the most frequently cited problems; and (5) drug abuse was mentioned only in the largest urban communities. Statistical data are presented in seven tables and one graph. (FMW)

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November 1988

PROFILES OF THE HIGHLAND LAO COMMUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

Final Report

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Family Support Administration
Office of Refugee Resettlement

UD 027 707

Profiles of the

HIGHLAND LAO COMMUNITIES

in the United States

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November, 1988

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Project Officer: Toyo Biddle

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PREFACE

This collection of data on the Highland Lao communities of the United States was designed to help members of those communities, and others working in refugee-serving agencies, to better serve America's Highland Lao Refugees. The project was originated by, and guided by, the Office of Refugee Resettlement's project officer, Toyo Biddle. We enjoyed working with her on it.

The authors are also grateful to the scores of refugee leaders who provided the data for this study, to numerous helpful people in the offices of the State Refugee Coordinators and the regional ORR offices, and to our supportive employer, John Coffey, of CZA, Inc.

The reader should be alert to the fact that the data presented herein are uneven; some of the population figures are precise counts, others are informed estimates and still others are guestimates. Nevertheless this document does provide some insights on where the Highland Lao live, and what they are doing.

I. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this document is to provide up-to-date information on Highland Lao communities in the United States. In each of the 90 community profiles which follow, certain standardized data are presented: the name of the community, the estimated size of its population, and information about jobs held by refugees and services available to them. These profiles reflect the situation in the summer of 1988 and are based largely on information supplied by community leaders; in many instances state refugee coordinators and county human resource officials were consulted as well.

A. Hmong Communities

A total of 71 Hmong communities in 30 states are covered by profiles. Generally these are communities of twelve or more families but in instances where a small Hmong community was found many miles away from other Hmong settlements (such as the handful of families in Sioux Falls, South Dakota) it was included among the profiles. In two instances, in Wisconsin and Illinois, scattered small Hmong communities in each of those states have been grouped together in single profiles.

B. Other Highland Lao Communities

Five other Highland Lao populations are covered in the same manner as are the Hmong. These are the Iu Mien, Khmu, Lahu, Lao Lue and Lao Tinh. A total of nineteen communities were identified in eight states; of these, eight are Iu Mien, seven are Khmu, two are Lahu, and one each are Lao Lue and Lao Tinh.

II. METHODOLOGIES USED AND DATA LIMITATIONS

As this project began, the authors examined previous data collection efforts and studies of the Highland Lao in the United States, including several sponsored or conducted by ORR. They also relied heavily on Mr. Yang's first-hand knowledge of the distribution of the Hmong population. Leaders of known Highland Lao communities were contacted, not only for data on their own communities, but also for leads to other communities. In addition, in all states where Highland Lao communities were not thought to exist, the authors called regional ORR offices and state refugee coordinators to check on the possible presence of such communities; in many states where Highland Lao communities were known to be present, the coordinators were called to secure leads about other communities, and for confirmation of some of the larger population estimates.

The authors believe that there are no sizeable communities (twelve families or more) of Highland Lao in the United States not covered in the community profiles. (If this is incorrect, please send information on missed communities to Ms. Toyo Biddle, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Family Support Administration, 6th Floor, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W., Washington, DC, 20447.)

For those who focus on such matters, the following is a discussion of some of the techniques used in gathering and estimating the data.

The data collected are the best estimates (and in some instances counts) available to the best-informed data sources the

authors could find. In most cases these sources are listed in the profiles, and most of these are directors or presidents of Mutual Assistance Agencies (MAAs).

In some situations where the number of families was known, but not the number of persons, the number of individuals had to be estimated. In California, Wisconsin and Minnesota the usual family size estimate was 6, in other states it was usually a slightly smaller number.[1]

Most Highland Lao refugees who work do so on a full-time basis, but in some of the high-welfare benefit states (California, Minnesota and Wisconsin) there are part-time workers as well. When this is known, it is reported in a footnote.

In all cases the average annual gross incomes for full-time, one-worker families were calculated by multiplying the average hourly wage for men by 2080 -- or 40 hours a week. In the case of multiple-worker families the assumption was that there was one man and one woman working in these families, and that they were each earning the average wage for their sex in that location. Similarly, the authors assumed full-time, year-around employment, but no overtime, for each of them.

Host community population sizes are from the 1980 Census,

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[1] In the course of this work some listings of cash assistance cases in Milwaukee and Marathon Counties, Wisconsin, were secured which cast some light on the average family size in AFDC cases. In Milwaukee County there were 124 cases bearing one of three frequently encountered Hmong names; there were 23 cases bearing one of the three same names in Marathon County. These 147 families had 834 members, or an average of 5.67; the average was 5.52 in Marathon County and 5.70 in Milwaukee County.

and unemployment data are for the area in question during the year 1987 and were provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). It should be noted that these are the unemployment rates for the general population -- not those of the refugees in those cities.

While the BLS data are routinely accepted, the refugee-specific information in this document should be used as rough benchmarks of the size, composition and economic status of the refugee communities listed.

While it is clear, for example, that Hmong refugee communities in Illinois are both smaller than, and more prosperous than, those in nearby Wisconsin, data included in the community profiles must be treated with caution. Further, the concept of average hourly wages was a new one to some of the informants (there is, for example, no word in Hmong for "average") and the averages shown are often the mid-point on a range rather than the true average or mean. Finally, the data on services available to refugees is often uneven, being the subjective reaction of the informants. In some cases more and better services may be available than noted, and in other cases the reverse may be the case.

Despite these caveats, however, the material may be helpful to refugee community leaders, to service providers, and to individual families seeking to improve their economic condition.

III. NATIONAL FINDINGS

A. The Highland Lao Population.

The estimated total population for the 71 Hmong communities is 105,253. The estimated total for the nineteen communities of the other five Highland Lao populations is 12,777. This is broken out as follows:

Iu Mien	10,288
Khmu	1,713
Lahu	436
Lao Tinh	220
Lao Lue	120

Thus, in the summer of 1988, these 90 communities reported a total Highland Lao population of 118,030.

How do these national totals compare with other data on the Highland Lao in America? Generally, although quite different counting and estimating techniques are used, the two sets of data are reasonably close to each other. Other estimates of the United States-wide Highland Lao populations are based on two sources: a count of arriving refugees and an estimate of births to refugees in the United States. (Neither of these data sources sort out different kinds of Highland Lao refugees, so one must group the Hmong and the other Highland Lao together for these purposes.) The most recent national estimate based on these sources is 110,456 -- close to the collective estimates of the Highland Lao community leaders. Before the end of the war in Indochina, there were only a few Highland Lao living in the United States. U.S. Department of State records indicate that about 72,000 Highland Lao, have been admitted to the United States from Southeast Asia

in recent years. The arrivals have been as follows:

1975-1980	42,533	(mostly in 1979 and 1980)
FY 1981	6,039	
FY 1982	2,600	
FY 1983	738	
FY 1984	2,753	
FY 1985	1.944	
FY 1986	3,668	
FY 1987	8,307	
FY 1988	3,812	(through April 30, 1988)[2]
total	72,394	

source: Bureau for Refugee Programs, U.S. Dept. of State

In addition to these arrivals, it is estimated that there were more than 37,000 Highland Lao births in the United States during the period 1975 to June 30, 1988.[3] Thus this indicates

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[2] In the last six months of FY'88, an additional 6,576 Highland Lao refugees were admitted to the United States.

[3] This 37,000+ estimate is based largely on "Fertility and Adaptation," Ruben G. Rumbaut and John R. Weeks, International Migration Review, Vol. 20, Summer, 1986. Rumbaut and Weeks conducted extensive, detailed studies of fertility among several Southeast Asian communities in San Diego. They reported that by September 30, 1985, there had been 57,376 Hmong arrivals nationally and they estimated that, up to that point, there had been 22,847 Hmong births in this country. (It is assumed that these figures should be applied to all Highland Lao, not just Hmong, because the State Department does not keep statistics on the separate communities among the Highland Lao.)

In order to estimate the number of Highland Lao births between September 30, 1985, and June 30, 1988, the following approach was used. Rumbaut and Weeks reported that Hmong women in their study had a remarkably high child-woman ratio. Typically for every ten American women, aged 15 through 44, there are 3.09 children under the age of four; the ratio among the Hmong studied was 17.69 such children, or more than five times the average U.S. rate. Although continued contact with the U.S. probably had somewhat reduced fertility rates, it was assumed (for the period in question) that Highland Lao women had four times the crude birth rates of American women. Since U.S. birth rates at the time were 15.7 births per thousand residents per year, the estimated Highland Lao birth rate was 62.8 per thousand per year, remarkably high, but not unreasonable considering the

that there were about 110,000 arrivals and births in this period. Since the number of non-refugee Highland Lao arrivals (mostly immigrants who had first settled in France) is probably about equal to the number of deaths in the U.S. this would suggest a total Highland Lao population in the 110,000 neighborhood in the summer of 1988.

It had been anticipated that there would be a gap between the collected community estimates and the national totals of arrivals and births. First, there was the question of timing; many post-April 30 arrivals from the camps were included in the community estimates but not in the 110,000 national totals. Then too, community leaders, be they in the Chamber of Commerce or the local MAA, tend to round their numbers upwards.[4] Further, while the estimates of the numbers of families are probably reasonably sound, those of individuals are less so. Often the local source

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San Diego findings. The 62.8 rate was then applied to an average base Highland Lao population of the nation (in 1985-1988) which was calculated at 88,116. This produced an estimated 15,215 births to Highland Lao families in the U.S. This provides:

Total 1975-1988 arrivals:	72,394
1975-1985 births:	22,847
1985-1988 births:	15,215
Total Highland Lao:	110,456

This estimating technique is not without its problems, but it does reflect the unusual fertility of the Highland Lao.

[4] Notice, in Exhibits One and Two, the frequency with which the number of families is divisible by 10, 50 and 100. The laws of chance would suggest that a little less than one response in 100 would be an even hundred in a survey of 90 communities, particularly since many communities reported that they had fewer than 100 families. There were, in fact, 23 such estimates.

would simply use a multiplier to get from his family count or estimate to the total estimate of the population. In the survey no effort was made to impose a standard family definition, and some of the large families reported may be extended, rather than nuclear, families.

While some of the factors noted above might tend to swell the estimates of the Highland Lao populations there were forces working in the other direction as well. Undoubtedly some small Highland Lao communities were not included in this survey, thereby reducing the national totals.

B. Distribution Among the States.

As to the geographical distribution, most of the Highland Lao live in three states, California, Wisconsin and Minnesota. That distribution is summarized below, and shown in more detail in Exhibits One and Two:

Principal States	Hmong (individuals)	Other Highland Lao (individuals)	Totals
California	58,976	9,623	68,599
Wisconsin	16,456	0	16,456
Minnesota	13,700	265	13,965
all other States	16,121	2,889	19,010
U.S. Totals	105,253	12,777	118,030

These data indicate that 56% of the Hmong are in California, 16% are in Wisconsin, and 13% are in Minnesota. This leaves 15% of the Hmong population scattered in 27 other states. As for the

Exhibit One

DISTRIBUTION OF THE HMONG POPULATION IN THE U.S. AND EXTENT OF ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY, 1988

State	Location	Number of Families	Number of Individuals	Percent who are self-sufficient	Percent who are on welfare
AR	Little Rock	7	46	100	0
CA	Banning	130	780	30	70
	Eureka	75	700	0	100
	Fresno	4,200	24,000	32	68
	Long Beach	250	1,500	35	65
	Merced	1,256	7,500	11	89
	Modesto	160	1,100	20	80
	Redding	38	298	5	95
	Sacramento	678	5,000	30	70
	San Diego	333	2,500	35	65
	Santa Ana	500	3,000	75	25
	Santa Barbara	229	1,145	77	23
	Stockton	658	5,600	6	94
	Visalia	282	1,853	20	80
	Yuba	650	4,000	5	95
	Total	9,439	58,976	28	72
CO	Denver	260	1,300	84	16
CT	Hartford	47	300	94	6
GA	Atlanta	174	823	100	0
IL	Chicago	31	186	90	10
	Dixon	5	30	80	20
	Downstate	32	186	97	3
	Wheaton	40	300	80	20
	Total	108	702	88	12
IN	Indianapolis	13	65	100	0
IA	Des Moines	100	403	97	3
KS	Kansas City	90	600	72	28
MA	Brocton	60	350	83	17
	Fitchburg	35	175	86	14
	Total	95	525	84	16

Exhibit One (cont.)

State	Location	Number of Families	Number of Individuals	Percent who are self-sufficient	Percent who are on welfare
MI	Detroit	332	1,879	39	61
	Lansing	95	475	53	47
	Saginaw	56	256	55	45
	Total	483	2,610	43	57
MN	Mnpls/St. Paul	2,330	13,450	37	63
	Rochester	56	250	77	23
	Total	2,386	13,700	38	62
MT	Billings	40	154	83	17
	Missoula	53	236	25	75
	Total	93	390	43	57
NE	Omaha	45	366	89	11
NJ	Bound Brook	10	70	100	0
NY	Syracuse	57	300	86	14
NC	Charlotte	22	109	95	5
	Morganton	75	534	93	7
	Mt. Gilead	35	175	100	0
	Total	132	818	95	5
OH	Akron	82	361	68	32
	Toledo	22	94	27	73
	Total	116	455	60	40
OK	Tulsa	42	300	86	14
OR	Portland	135	1,130	87	13
PA	Leola	54	350	81	19
	Philadelphia	56	400	82	18
	Total	110	750	82	18

Exhibit One (cont.)

State	Location	Number of Families	Number of Individuals	Percent who are self-sufficient	Percent who are on welfare
RI	Providence	311	2,178	79	21
SC	Spartanburg	14	84	93	7
SD	Sioux Falls	3	22	100	0
TN	Memphis	11	65	100	0
	Nashville	6	40	100	0
	Total	17	105	100	0
TX	Dallas/Ft. Worth	79	395	100	0
UT	Salt Lake City	28	168	100	0
VA	Sterling	5	34	100	0
WA	Carnation	25	155	100	0
	Pasco	15	72	93	7
	Seattle	90	600	90	10
	Spokane	60	355	47	53
	Total	190	1,182	78	22
WI	Appleton	350	1,850	28	72
	Eau Claire	365	1,859	14	86
	Fond du Lac	17	119	18	82
	Green Bay	282	1,572	22	78
	LaCrosse	271	1,898	11	89
	Madison	110	1,000	24	76
	Manitowoc	112	800	27	73
	Milwaukee	600	3,000	50	50
	Oshkosh	105	658	39	61
	Sheboygan	230	1,178	44	56
	Wausau	297	1,800	29	71
	Wis. Rapids	15	75	0	100
	other, small communities	108	647	27	73
	Total	2,862	16,456	27	73
U.S. Totals		17,439	105,253	37	63

Source: Survey of Hmong community leaders by CZA Inc. as described in text.

Exhibit Two

DISTRIBUTION OF THE NON-HMONG HIGHLAND LAO POPULATION IN THE U.S. AND EXTENT OF ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY, 1988

Group/ State	Location	Number families	Number individuals	Percent who are self-sufficient	Percent who are on assistance
Iu Mien					
AL	Montgomery	9	65	100	0
CA	Merced	159	1,065	0	100
	Sacramento	188	1,500	8	92
	SF Bay Area	960	4,800	20	80
	Visalia	105	667	14	86
OR	Portland	200	1,500	65	35
WA	Seattle N*	77	478	74	26
	Seattle S*	75	278	40	60
Total		1,764	10,288	26	74
Khmu					
Ca	Richmond	100	600	27	73
	Santa Ana	20	100	90	10
	Stockton	150	500	50	50
MA	Allston	15	70	100	0
OK	Ok. City	17	117	100	0
TX	Dallas/ Fort Worth	14	70	100	0
Wa	Seattle	56	256	66	34
Total		382	1,713	54	46

* The two Iu Mien communities in Seattle asked to be reported upon separately; one is composed of people from the southern part of Laos (S) and the other from the northern part (N).

Exhibit Two (cont.)

DISTRIBUTION OF THE NON-HMONG HIGHLAND LAO POPULATION IN THE U.S. AND EXTENT OF ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY, 1988

Group/ Location	Number families	Number individuals	Percent who are self-sufficient	Percent who are on assistance
Lahu				
Ca Visalia	74	391	7	93
MN Rochester	11	45	9	91
Total	85	436	7	93
Lao Tinh				
MN Rochester	35	220	77	23
Lao Lue				
TX Dallas/ Ft. Worth	24	120	100	0
U.S. Total	2,290	12,777	31	69
Totals By States				
AL	9	65	100	0
CA	1,766	9,623	20	80
MA	15	70	100	0
MN	46	265	20	80
OK	17	117	100	0
OR	200	1,500	65	35
TX	38	190	100	0
WA	208	1,012	60	40

Source: survey of Highland Lao community leaders by CZA, Inc., as described in the text.

other Highland Lao refugees, 75% of them are in California, 2% are in Minnesota, none in Wisconsin and 23% in six other states.

The three largest Hmong communities are those of Fresno (24,000 individuals), Minneapolis-St. Paul (13,450) and Merced (7,500).

The largest of the other Highland Lao communities is the Iu Mien community in the San Francisco Bay area; it is estimated at 4,800 people.

C. Indications of Self-Sufficiency.

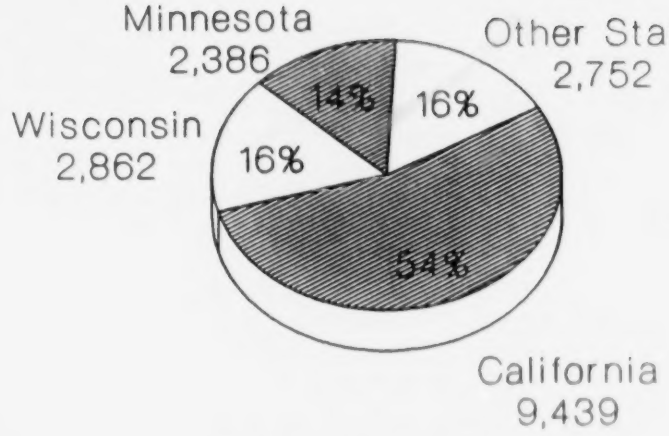
Exhibits One and Two also show self-sufficiency rates nationwide and for each population and for each state. (A self-sufficient family is defined as one that does not receive cash assistance.)

The self-sufficiency rate, nationwide, for the Hmong, is 37%; these rates vary widely for the other Highland Lao groups but the average rate for them is 31%.

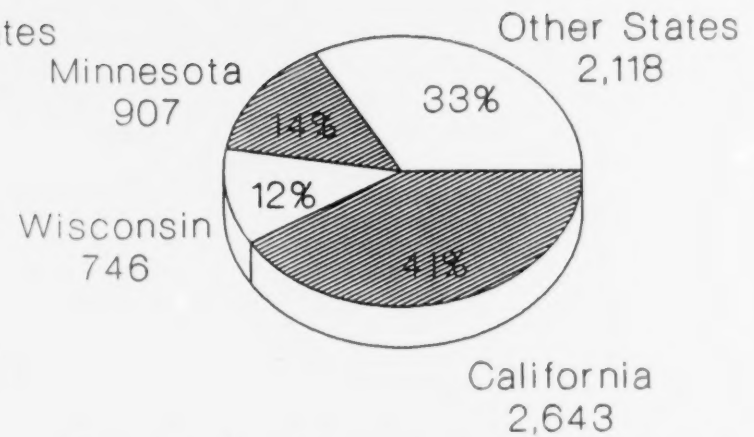
There are significant differences state by state. The Hmong rates are 28% for California, 27% in Wisconsin, 38% in Minnesota, but are between 43% and 79% in five states, between 80% and 97% in thirteen states, and are at 100% in nine others. Expressed another way, while the states other than California, Minnesota and Wisconsin have about 15% of the Hmong population, they have 33% of the self-sufficient Hmong families, a two-to-one ratio. (See Exhibit Three.) Similarly, self-sufficiency rates for the non-Hmong Highland Lao also vary from state to state, following

Exhibit Three

Distribution of Self-Sufficient Hmong



Total Families



Self-Sufficient Families

Source: Exhibit One

the same patterns noted for the Hmong (such as low rates in California.)

There are also significant differences within at least some of the states. Some of the newest, most rapidly growing Hmong communities in Northern California, Eureka, Redding and Yuba, for example, have much lower self-sufficiency rates than older settlements, such as Santa Ana and Santa Barbara. (See profiles for these communities.)

Exhibits Four and Five show four other indicators of economic adjustment -- the number of families reporting ownership of homes and businesses, and the numbers of individual college students and graduates.

About one Highland Lao family in ten owns its own home. More than 2,000 persons, close to 2% of the population, are attending college, and another 500 have a degree of some kind, including a scattering of Ph.Ds, MDs and at least two law degrees. Further, close to 200 of the Highland Lao own their own businesses -- these tend largely to be groceries, restaurants, video stores and rental-housing operations.

These favorable indicators are not spread evenly among the states. Those living outside the three principal states of concentration are much more likely to own a home or a business or to be a college graduate than those in California, Minnesota and Wisconsin. For example, only one Highland Lao family in 19, living in one of the three high-concentration states, owns its own home; while this is true of one family in three living

Exhibit Four

DISTRIBUTION OF HOME AND BUSINESS OWNERS, COLLEGE STUDENTS AND COLLEGE GRADUATES IN HIGHLAND LAO COMMUNITIES IN THE U.S., 1988
(numbers and percentages within rows)

Language Group	Number of Families	Home Owners	Business Owners	College Students	College Graduates
Hmong	17,439 (100%)	1,697 (9.7%)	181 (1.0%)	1,977 (11.3%)	521 (3.0%)*
Iu Mien	1,764 (100%)	174 (9.9%)	14 (.8%)	160 (9.1%)	23 (1.3%)
Khmu	382 (100%)	33 (8.6%)	3 (.8%)	29 (7.6%)	9 (2.3%)
Lahu	85 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Lao Tinh	35 (100%)	2 (5.7%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Lao Lue	24 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Totals	19,729	1,904	195	2,166	553

* In other words, 9.7% of the Hmong families own their homes, 1.0% own a business, 11.3% of the families, on average, have a college student, and 3.0% have a college graduate.

Source: CZA Survey, 1988

Exhibit Five

DISTRIBUTION OF HMONG HOME AND BUSINESS OWNERS, COLLEGE STUDENTS AND COLLEGE GRADUATES IN SELECTED STATES, 1988
(numbers and percentages within columns)

States	Number of Families	Home Owners	Business Owners	College Students	College Graduates
Calif.	9,439 (54%)	477 (28%)	87 (48%)	1,022 (52%)	264 (51%)*
Minnesota	2,386 (14%)	155 (9%)	15 (8%)	364 (18%)	51 (10%)
Wisconsin	2,862 (16%)	148 (9%)	24 (13%)	222 (11%)	43 (8%)
All Other States	2,752 (16%)	917 (54%)	55 (30%)	369 (19%)	163 (31%)
Totals	17,439 (100%)	1,697 (100%)	181 (100%)	1,977 (100%)	521 (100%)

* In other words, of all the Hmong families in the nation, 54% live in California, but only 28% of the homeowning families and 48% of the business-owning families, nationwide, live in that state.

Note: This table, unlike the previous one, deals with Hmong only, and does not include data on other Highland Lao groups. Some percentages do not add because of rounding.

Source: CZA Survey, 1988

elsewhere.

Most working refugee families have two or more workers; 3,754, or 56% of the working Hmong families, are in this category; they are doing well financially, earning an estimated $24,024 per year on average. There is a similar percentage of multiple-worker families in the other Highland Lao populations and they earn a comparable amount, an estimated average of $23,890 per year.

There are fewer one-worker families than two-worker families, and they earn considerably less money. The Hmong one-worker families earn $13,038 per year on average, while the non-Hmong Highland Lao families with a single worker earn $13,760.

The number of two-, at least one-, and no-worker families for each of the population groups is shown below:[5]

Group	2-worker families	at least 1-worker families	No-worker families	all families
Hmong	3,754	2,928	10,769	17,451
Iu Mien	280	183	1,301	1,764
Khmu	159	47	176	382
Lahu	1	5	79	85
Lao Tinh	23	4	8	35
Lao Lue	23	1	0	24
Totals	4,240	3,168	12,333	19,741

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[5] Data are incomplete on 959 families (all Hmong) in the "at-least-one-worker" category; in those cases it is known that someone in the family has a job, but it is not known if more than one family member works. As a result, the incidence of two-worker families shown above is, to some unknown extent, an understatement.

D. Problems Reported by Community Leaders

In the course of the conversations with the community leaders they were asked open-ended questions about problems and concerns facing the communities. In many cases, particularly in the smaller, more self-sufficient communities, it was said that there were no problems, or as one man expressed it, "just the usual tensions, nothing unusual." A number of the informants, however, did cite one to several problems that were worrying them. These responses were grouped into several categories:

Problem Cited	Number of Times Cited
generational problems	9
mental health	8
delinquency, youth gangs	7
marital problems	7
cultural adjustments	6
use of drugs	5
need for training in vocational and/or living skills	4
difficulties with health providers	2
alcohol abuse	2
need for youth counselling	1
too rigid welfare rules	1
too much economic pressure	1
MAA salaries are too low	1
Male-female numerical imbalance	1

There was a lot of overlap among the generational, delinquency and drug responses, but there were different distributions as well. Drugs were mentioned only in the largest of the Hmong concentrations: Fresno, Twin Cities and Sacramento, and in the Iu Mien communities in the Bay Area and in Seattle. With the exception of the last-named community (which has 152 families) the drug problem was reported only in communities with

more than 600 families each. The problems of delinquency, and of generational conflict were reported in a broader array of communities. The need for vocational (or technical training) was mentioned by a couple of sources, as was the need for training in "living" or coping skills.

In addition to the problems reported explicitly by the community leaders, the authors also noted:

- o the special problems of some of the smaller ethnic groups among the Highland Lao.
- o the fact that the most self-sufficient of the communities (other than those in the PSR* program) appeared to be the ones with the most rapidly-shrinking populations;
- o the fact that a couple of the fastest-growing communities were those where employment was rare to non-existent.

The Non-Hmong Highland Lao. For example, one community leader spoke of what he regarded as many serious problems: "mental health problems are a major concern...drinking is also a serious problem... marital problems and violence are other worries...no one wants to take any leadership..."

Given the small size of many of these communities (such as the Khmu, Lahu, Lao Lue and Lao Tinh) supportive services are usually not provided in the group's own language.

The shrinking communities. The high employment ratios and incomes reported for the Hmong in places like Indianapolis, Salt Lake City, and Tulsa contrast with the fact that the populations of these places are declining -- while steady gains are reported in most California and Wisconsin cities.

* PSR stands for Planned Secondary Resettlement, a federal program; it is described in the Atlanta community profile.

Fast-growing communities. On the other side of the same coin was that the fastest-growing of the communities appeared to be in rural to semi-rural northern California counties where welfare dependency is the norm.

These specific patterns are reflected in the national data on the changing distribution of the Hmong population. Exhibit Six shows the geographical location of the Hmong outside California in 1983 and in 1988; the Hmong population in Wisconsin and Minnesota has more than doubled in the last five years, while the Hmong population in states other than California, Wisconsin and Minnesota has dropped by several thousand. This decline in the population of the other states has taken place despite the overall rapid growth of the national Hmong population.

Exhibit Six

DISTRIBUTION OF THE U.S. HMONG POPULATION OUTSIDE CALIFORNIA IN THE YEARS 1983 AND 1988

State	Location	Number of Individuals 1983	Number of Individuals 1988
AL	Selma	100	0
AR	Little Rock	39	46
	Fort Smith	300	0
	Total	300	46
CO	Denver	1,750	1,300
CT	Hartford	212	300
GA	Atlanta	500	823
IL	Chicago	648	186
	Dixon	278	30
	Wheaton	370	300
	Other Downstate	1,207	186
	Total	2,503	702
IN	Indianapolis	120	65
IA	Des Moines	663	403
	Four outlying towns	248	0
	Total	911	403
KS	Kansas City	800	600
MA	Brocton	0	350
	Fitchburg	220	175
	Total	220	525
MI	Detroit	800	1,879
	Lansing	510	475
	Saginaw	291	256
	Total	1,601	2,610
MN	Mnpls/St. Paul	8,730	13,450
	Rochester	0	250
	Duluth	110	0
	Total	8,840	13,700

Exhibit Six (cont.)

State	Location	Number of Individuals 1983	Number of Individuals 1988
MT	Billings	150	154
	Missoula	307	236
	Total	457	390
NE	Omaha	325	366
NJ	Bound Brook	0	70
NY	Syracuse	160	300
NC	Charlotte	0	109
	Morganton	450	534
	Mt. Gilead	0	175
	Total	450	818
OH	Akron	153	361
	Columbus	151	0
	Toledo	350	94
	Total	654	455
OK	Tulsa	500	300
	Oklahoma City	80	0
	Lawton	44	0
	Total	624	300
OR	Portland	970	1,130
	Salem	290	0
	Total	1,260	1,130
PA	Lancaster	0	350
	Philadelphia	1,200	400
	Total	1,200	750
RI	Providence	2,300	2,178
SC	Spartanburg	75	84
SD	Sioux Falls	0	22

Exhibit Six (cont.)

State	Location	Number of Individuals 1983	Number of Individuals 1988
TN	Memphis	450	65
	Nashville	0	40
	Total	450	105
TX	Dallas/Ft. Worth	300	395
UT	Salt Lake City	1,500	168
VA	Sterling	0	34
WA	Carnation	0	155
	Pasco	0	72
	Seattle	700	600
	Spokane	400	355
	Total	1,100	1,182
WI	Appleton	950	1,850
	Eau Claire	500	1,859
	Fond du Lac	0	119
	Green Bay	493	1,572
	LaCrosse	600	1,898
	Madison	0	1,000
	Manitowoc	0	800
	Milwaukee	1,000	3,000
	Oshkosh	0	658
	Sheboygan	700	1,178
	Wausau	470	1,800
	Wisconsin Rapids	0	75
	Other small communities	0	647
	Total	4,713	16,456
US	Subtotals		
	MI + WI	13,553	30,156
	All others outside CA	19,872	16,121
US	Total		
	All outside CA	33,425	46,277

Sources: 1983 data, from the files of the Highland Lao Working Group, Office of Refugee Resettlement; 1988 data, from survey of Hmong community leaders by CZA Inc. as described in the text.

IV. THE COMMUNITY PROFILES

A. GUIDE TO THE PROFILES

The balance of the report consists of a series of 90 one-page community profiles; these are presented in two groups, first those for the Hmong, and then those for the other Highland Lao communities. Within each category, the profiles are arranged alphabetically by state, and then by communities within the states. The one-page profile on the Hmong community in Syracuse, N.Y., one of the first to be collected, follows as an example of how each of these profiles are organized. (See Exhibit Seven)

The heading for the profile gives the name of the principal city (Syracuse), the state (New York) and the county (Onondaga) where it is located and the language used by the community (Hmong). In some locations, such as Visalia, California, where there are refugees living in a number of nearby locations, the names of these smaller communities are noted on the upper right hand section of the page. In situations, such as Dallas, Texas, where there are several Highland Lao communities, there is a separate page for each linguistic group.

The number of families and the number of individuals are shown near the top of the page.

Next, for the Hmong communities, the largest clans are listed, with the largest ones followed by other significant ones. If a large majority of the refugees belong to a single clan, as is the case in Chicago (Xiong) then only one clan is listed.

Under "Employment" the total number of families with at

Exhibit Seven

SAMPLE COMMUNITY PROFILE

Hmong Community — **Syracuse, New York** (Onondago County)

Number of Families: 57

Number of Individuals: 300

Largest Clans: Lee, Her, Yang, Lor, Thao, Vue, and Xiong

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	49	
Families with one worker:	9	
Families with two or more workers:	40	
Common jobs for men:	factory production, human services,	maintenance, engineer
Common jobs for women:	factory production	housekeeping
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.00	women: $6.00
Average annual income, single worker families:		$14,560
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$27,040
Number of families with private medical insurance:		40

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	8

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	16
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	1
Number of current college students	11
Number of college graduates	14

Hmong population trends

There has been an outmigration of 15 families in last three years but 25 families have arrived, 18 from overseas.

MAA Status

Refugee services are provided by Refugee Family Program, 408 East Willow Street, Syracuse, N.Y. 13203

Host Community

Syracuse is a city of 170,000 near Lake Ontario in upstate New York. The unemployment rate is 6.1%, below the national average.

For more information: Robert Huss, Refugee Family Program, (315) 425 4982 or Tou Lee, Refugee Family Program, (315) 425 4667 (o)

least one worker is noted first, then the number of families with just one worker, and then those with two or more workers. Then the most common jobs for men and women are listed followed by an estimate of the average hourly wage for each sex.

The average wage is the total amount of money earned per hour by all the male workers (for instance) divided by the number of such workers. In most communities there are some workers making more than the average wage, and some making less.

The hourly wage data are followed by estimated annual incomes of one-worker and multi-worker families. Also noted is the number of families with private medical insurance.

The extent of welfare utilization is shown by the number of families on cash assistance (which includes Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance (GA) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI.) Receipt of Food Stamps, housing subsidies and public medical insurance are <u>not</u> defined as welfare utilization. The number of families on cash assistance (8 in the case of Syracuse) can be compared to the total number of families in the community (57.) In this instance there is a relatively low use of cash assistance, and, as in many other communities, a high incidence of economic self-sufficiency.

"Other indicators" show some other numerical clues to how well the local community is doing in its adjustment to the United States.

The population trends item shows whether the community is

growing, shrinking or remaining stable.

The MAA status item tells of the existence of a mutual assistance association, or not, and whether or not it has any government funding. The availability of services for refugees is noted in this item as well; the services covered are refugee-specific and do not include routine services available to all Americans, like public schools and the State Employment Service. The services listed are those mentioned to the authors by the local source of information, and reflect that person's sense of what is available in the community to that refugee community.

The "host community" information provides a quick summary of the size and location of the community, and its unemployment rate. The rate of unemployment (in 1987) is shown, and it is compared to the national average (6.2% that year.)

If a reader wants more information about a specific community a local source of information is noted; in most instances this is an official of the local MAA.

Several abbreviations are used in the profiles, in addition to the familiar MAA (mutual assistance association):

FY = fiscal year
n.d. = no data or information available
n.a. = not applicable[6]
(o) = office or workplace
(r) = residence or home
SRC = State Refugee Coordinator

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[6] This means that there could not possibly be information on the subject. Thus if no women work in the community, the notation for women's wages is n.a..

IV. B. HMONG COMMUNITY PROFILES

Arkansas
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Georgia
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Montana
Nebraska
New Jersey
New York
North Carolina
Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
South Carolina
South Dakota
Tennessee
Texas
Utah
Virginia
Washington
Wisconsin

Hmong Community — **Little Rock, Arkansas** (Pulaski County)

Number of Families: 7

Number of Individuals: 46

Largest Clans: Vang, Yang, Lor

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		7	
Families with one worker:		2	
Families with two or more workers:		5	
Common jobs for men:	machine shop		factory work
	social work		electrician
Common jobs for women:	factory work		sewing
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.00	women:	$5.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:			$14,560
Average annual income, multi-worker families:			$24,960
Number of families with private medical insurance:			7

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	0

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	5
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	3
Number of college graduates	1

Hmong population trends

Population has been shrinking in recent years.
Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: three, but they all have left the area.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

No MAA or refugee-specific services

Host Community

Little Rock, the state capital of Arkansas, is a city of 159,000. The general unemployment rate is 7.1%, or a little above the U.S. average.

For more information: Thai Lor, 3121 W. 13th, Little Rock, Ar, 72204, (501) 664 4160 (r)

Hmong Community — **Banning, California** (Riverside and San Bernadino Counties)

Number of Families: 130

Number of Individuals: 780

Largest Clans: Yang, Vang, Moua, Lee

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		65
Families with one worker:		50*
Families with two or more workers:		15
Common jobs for men:	machine operator	assembly
	teacher's aide	
Common jobs for women:	assembly	sewing
Average hourly wage:	men: $5.00	women: $4.75
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$10,400**
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$20,280
Number of families with private medical insurance:		20

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	91

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	13	
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	1	(grocery)
Number of current college students	10	
Number of college graduates	8	

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing slowly.
Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 30

MAA Status and Refugee Services

A funded MAA provides ESL, vocational training and employment services.

Host Community

Banning is a community of 14,000 in the desert some 90 miles east of Los Angeles. The unemployment rate for the Riverside-San Bernadino labor market is 5.6%, less than the U.S. average.

For more information: Hai Lee, Executive Director, Lao Family Community, Inc., Suite F, 22700 Alessandro Blvd., Moreno Valley, California, 92388, (714) 653 1181 (o)

* about half of these are part-time workers, who probably are in cash-assistance families.

** for those working full time.

Hmong Community — **Eureka, California** (Humboldt County)

Number of Families: 75

Number of Individuals: 700

Largest Clans: Thao, Her, Yang, Vang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	6 - 12*
Families with one worker:	6 - 12
Families with two or more workers:	0

Common jobs for men:	car washer		
Common jobs for women:	clerk		
Average hourly wage:	men: n.d.	women:	n.d.
Average annual income, one-worker families:			n.d.
Average annual income, multi-worker families:			n.d.
Number of families with private medical insurance:			0

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	75

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	0
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	25
Number of college graduates	0

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing rapidly since Hmong community was founded in 1985.

Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 5

MAA Status and Refugee Services

No MAA and no refugee-specific services

Host Community

Eureka is a city of 24,000 on the Pacific Ocean, some 250 miles north of San Francisco. It is in a lumbering area in which the general unemployment rate is 7.5%, which is above the U.S. average.

* The employed Hmong are all below the age of 25; there appear to be 6 - 12 young men employed by car dealers as car washers, and during the summer three Hmong teenagers (one woman and two men) worked in a summer program for the County Welfare Department. None of this employment, apparently, has eliminated any families from the cash assistance rolls, though it does decrease the amount of Food Stamps payments.

Hmong Community — **Fresno, California** (Fresno County)

Number of Families: 4,200

Number of Individuals: 24,000

Largest Clans: Vang, Her, Yang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		1,357
Families with one worker:		392
Families with two or more workers:		965
Common jobs for men:	human services	laborer
	cook	farm labor
	assembly	janitorial
Common jobs for women:	human services	service work
	restaurants	hotels
	clerical work	teaches aide
Average hourly wage:	men: $5.00	women: $4.85
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$10,400
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$20,488
Number of families with private medical insurance:		1,065

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	2,843

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	250
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	37
Number of current college students	350
Number of college graduates	66

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing slowly. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 350

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Funded MAA provides resettlement, immigration, employment, vocational ESL, vocational training, health promotion, legal assistance and social services.

Host Community

Fresno is the principal city (of 217,000 population) of Fresno County, which is the nation's most productive farming county; it lies some 200 miles north and west of Los Angeles. The general unemployment rate is 10.7%, or well above the U.S. average .

For more information: Tony Vang, Executive Director, Lao Family Community, Inc., 3121 E. Olive Ave., Fresno, California, 93702, (209) 264 4080 (o) See list of other Fresno Hmong organizations on the next page.

More information on Fresno

Other organizations active in Fresno include the following:

Hmong National Council, President, Neng Zoua Vang, Executive Director, Pheng Vue, 3224 E. Mayfair Blvd, Fresno, CA, 93703, (209) 237 6647

Hmong-American Women's Organization, President, Mrs. Chong Yang, c/o of Lao Family Community (LFC), address and phone on previous page

Lao Hmong Family Relief Association, President, Nao Lee Xiong, Apt. 101, 540 N. Fisher, Fresno, CA, 93702, (209) 237 6234; this is a sunshine society

Lao Ethnic Association, President, Paul T. Moua, 3233 E. Mayfair Blvd., Fresno, CA, 93703, (209) 233 6528

Hmong Student Club, Fresno City College, President, Neng Her, 1101 E. University Ave., Fresno, CA, 93704 (no phone)

Hmong American Human Rights Committee, Spokesman, Dang Vang, c/o LFC

United Lao Agriculture, President, Cha Yang, 3224 E. Mayfair Blvd., Fresno, CA, 93703, (209) 233 4253

Hmong Student Association of Fresno, President, Chia Vang, c/o LFC

Hmong Culture Collection, President, Xang Lee, (street address not known) (209) 441 3544 (o) or (209) 297 1101 (r)

Hmong Community — Long Beach, California (Los Angeles County)

Number of Families: 250

Number of Individuals: 1,500

Largest Clans: Yang, Lee, Xiong, Vang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		87*
Families with one worker:		67
Families with two or more workers:		20
Common jobs for men:	technician assembly	machine operator human services
Common jobs for women:	assembly secretarial	hospital work hotel and other services
Average hourly wage:	men: $6.50	women: $6.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$13,520
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$26,000
Number of families with private medical insurance:		78

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	163

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	7
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	20
Number of college graduates	15

Hmong population trends

Population has been shrinking.
Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 20+

MAA Status and Refugee Services

There is a non-funded MAA; job placement, vocational training and ESL programs are offered by other refugee agencies in the area and, in the case of ESL, by Long Beach College

Host Community

Long Beach is a sea-side community in Los Angeles County, just south of L.A. International Airport. It is a city of 361,000. The general unemployment rate is 5.9%, or a little less than the U.S. average.

For more information: Ter Fong Yang, President, Hmong Association of Long Beach, 1401 Chestnut Ave., #244, Long Beach, California, 90813 (213) 591 9884.

* about 5% of the jobs are part time

Hmong Community — **Merced, California** (Merced County)

Number of Families: 1,256*

Number of Individuals: 7,500

Largest Clans: Xiong, Lee, Moua, Yang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		150
Families with one worker:		110*
Families with two or more workers:		40
Common jobs for men:	office work services	teacher's aide laborer
Common jobs for women:	office work services	teacher's aide
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.00	women: $6.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$14,560
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$27,040
Number of families with private medical insurance:		n.d.

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare 1,118

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	50
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	12***
Number of current college students	200
Number of college graduates	40 (includes a dentist)

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing.
Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 200

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Funded MAA provides job placement, social services, driver's education, pre-ESL and youth programs.

Host Community

Merced is a city of 36,000 some 60 miles north and west of Fresno. There are both farms and factories in the area. The general unemployment rate is 11%, well above the U.S. average.

For more information: Houa Vang, Director, Lao Family Community, 855 W 15th St., Merced, CA, 95340, (209) 384 7384 (o)

* Population estimate based on 6 members per family, and an MAA estimated welfare utilization rate of 89%. The County had, in September, 1988, 1,118 Hmong cash assistance cases.
** some of the men's jobs, and most of the women's, are parttime.
*** groceries, maintenance firm, restaurant and video store

Hmong Community **Modesto, California** (Stanislaus County) Includes: Turlock

Number of Families: 160

Number of Individuals: 1,100

Largest Clans: Yang, Lee, Thao

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	32	
Families with one worker:	n.d.	
Families with two or more workers:	n.d.	
Common jobs for men:	welder	dyer
	human services	operator
Common jobs for women:	electronic assembly	sewing
Average hourly wage:	men: $6.00	women: $4.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$12,480
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$20,800
Number of families with private medical insurance:		21

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	128

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	0
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	3*
Number of current college students	34
Number of college graduates	5

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing slowly
Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: n.d.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Funded MAA provides employment and central intake unit services; Modesto Junior College provides ESL and vocational training.

Host Community

Modesto is a fast-growing city of more than 100,000 about half-way between Fresno and Sacramento in the Central Valley of California; there are farms and factories in the area. The general unemployment rate is 12.1 %, or about twice the U.S. average.

For more information: Moua Thao, Project Director, Lao Family Community, Inc., 142 N 9th St., # 9, Modesto, CA, 95350, (209) 572 1244 (o)

*Two groceries and a used car dealer

Hmong Community **Redding, California** (Shasta County) Includes: Red Bluff

Number of Families: 38

Number of Individuals: 298

Largest Clans: Thao, Xiong, Lee, Yang

Employment: (there is limited employment data available; the two working families mutually own and operate a restaurant)

Total number of families with workers:	2
Families with one worker:	0
Families with two or more workers:	2

Common jobs for men:	restaurant work			
Common jobs for women:	restaurant work			
Average hourly wage:	men: n.d.		women:	n.d.
Average annual income, one-worker families:				n.d.
Average annual income, multi-worker families:				n.d.
Number of families with private medical insurance:				n.d.

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	36

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	0
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	1 (restaurant)
Number of current college students	2*
Number of college graduates	0

Population trends

The Hmong population has been growing since the community was founded in 1985. New families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 1

MAA Status and Refugee Services

ESL is provided by the community college; it is not clear to what extent other refugee services are available; there is no MAA.

Host Community

Redding is a fast growing community of 42,000 some 200 miles north of San Francisco, in a rural region. The general unemployment rate is 9.3%, which is much more than the national average.

For more information: Nhia Vang Thao, 4012 Oasis Rd., Redding, CA 96003 (916) 244 0521 (r)

* in addition, there are 15 adults in an ESL program provided by the community college.

Hmong Community — **Sacramento, California** (Sacramento County)

Number of Families: 678

Number of Individuals: 5,000 *

Largest Clans: Yang, Vang, Khang, Vue, Thao

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		220
Families with one worker:		110
Families with two or more workers:		110
Common jobs for men:	landscaping	teacher's aide
Common jobs for women:	nursery labor	janitor
Average hourly wage:	men: $5.50	women: $4.25
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$11,440
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$20,280
Number of families with private medical insurance:		100

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	475

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	35	
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	1	(grocery)
Number of current college students	150	
Number of college graduates	10	

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: approximately 25

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Refugee services are provided by the funded MAA and other local agencies, such as the County Department of Social Services, Catholic and Lutheran agencies and IRC.

Host Community

Sacramento, a city of 275,000, is located in the Central Valley of California (a farming region) about 80 miles north and east of San Francisco. It is the state capital. The general unemployment rate is 6.0%, just about the U.S. average.

For more information: Yia B. Yang, Executive Director, Lao Family Community, 5840 Franklin Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95824 (916) 424 0864 (o).

* other estimates for the Hmong population were, 3,500, 6,000, and 7,000. In September, 1986, the local Human Resources agency counted 2,902 Hmong individuals on the case assistance rolls; this is not inconsistent with the estimate of 475 current cases.

Hmong Community — **San Diego, California** (San Diego County) — Includes: El Cajon

Number of Families: 333

Number of Individuals: 2,500

Largest Clans: Yang, Vue, Vang, Lee

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	130	
Families with one worker:	50*	
Families with two or more workers:	80	
Common jobs for men:	human services electronic technician	assembly
Common jobs for women:	assembly human services	sewing
Average hourly wage:	men: $8.00	women: $5.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$16,640
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$27,040
Number of families with private medical insurance:	80	

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare: 210 (1,185 individuals)

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	12	
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	1	(grocery)
Number of current college students	15	
Number of college graduates	3	

Hmong population trends

Population has been shrinking.
Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 80

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Funded MAA provides employment, social and vocational training services, and work orientation.

Host Community

San Diego, a city of 875,000 is on the Pacific Ocean near the Mexican border; it relies on tourists, industry and the Navy base to support its economy. The general unemployment rate is 4.5%, or well below the U.S. average.

For more information: Chu Yang, Indochinese Mutual Assistance Association, 5511 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, CA, 92115 (619) 583 9811 (o).

* 20-25% of those with jobs work part time, and some of these workers continue to receive cash assistance.

Hmong Community — **Santa Ana, California** (Orange County) — Includes: Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Westminister, Fountain Valley

Number of Families: 500

Number of Individuals: 3,000

Largest Clans: Moua, Vang, Lee, Yang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		375*
Families with one worker:		19
Families with two or more workers:		356
Common jobs for men:	engineer machine shop	human services assembly
Common jobs for women:	assembly maintenance	services
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.00	women: $6.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$14,560
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$27,040
Number of families with private medical insurance:		356

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	125**	

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	30	
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	1	(contractor)
Number of current college students	100	
Number of college graduates	50	

Hmong population trends

Population has been shrinking as the high cost of living locally has driven away families on cash assistance. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 200

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Funded MAA provides job placement, social adjustment, child care, child abuse prevention and ESL services.

Host Community

Santa Ana is a city of 200,000 an hour's drive east of Los Angeles and the location of Disneyland. The general unemployment rate is 3.3%, much less than the U.S. average.

For more information: Cheu Thao, Executive Director, Lao Family Community, 1140 S. Bristol Street, Santa Ana, CA, 92704, (714) 556 9520 (o).

* an estimated 10% of the workers are part time.
** This is MAA estimate; County says it provides cash assistance to 17 time-eligible refugees and has no data on other refugees.

Hmong Community — Stockton, California (San Joaquin County)

Number of Families: 658

Number of Individuals: 5,600

Largest Clans: Lo, Lee, Vang, Xiong

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		42*
Families with one worker:		33
Families with two or more workers:		9
Common jobs for men:	social worker	counsellor
	kitchen help	janitor
Common jobs for women:	teacher's aide	kitchen help
	cook	clerk
Average hourly wage:	men: $6.00	women: $4.90
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$12,480
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$22,672
Number of families with private medical insurance:		5

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare 616

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	21
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	8**
Number of current college students	30
Number of college graduates	30

Hmong population trends

Population has been increasing slowly.
Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 21

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Funded MAA provides employment and social services, including on the job training (OJT.)

Host Community

Stockton is a city of 150,000, a trading center in a farm area in central California, 65 miles east of San Francisco. The general unemployment rate is 9.9%, well above the U.S. average.

For more information: C. Pheng Lo, Executive Director, Lao Family Community, 529 N. Sutter St., Stockton, CA, 95202, (209) 466 0721 (o)

* about 10% of these jobs are part time

** 3 groceries, 2 farming businesses, and a auto repair shop, a used car dealer and a financial services organization

Hmong Community — **Santa Barbara, California** (Santa Barbara County) — Includes: Goleta, Lompoc, Oxnard

Number of Families: 229

Number of Individuals: 1,145

Largest Clans: Xiong, Yang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	177*	
Families with one worker:	25	
Families with two or more workers:	152	
Common jobs for men:	assembly, hospitals	printing
Common jobs for women:	assembly	bookkeeping
Average hourly wage:	men: $6.00	women: $5.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$12,480
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$22,880
Number of families with private medical insurance:		86

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	52

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	55
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	1 (restaurant)
Number of current college students	26
Number of college graduates	10**

Hmong population trends

Population has been increasing in recent months.
Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 15

MAA Status and Refugee Services

There is no MAA; adult education services are provided by the community college.

Host Community

Santa Barbara is a city of 74,000 on the coast some 100 miles west of Los Angeles. Tourism and citrus growing are important. The general unemployment rate is 4.7%, or below the U.S. average.

For more information: Touby Lo, 7381 Aviano Ave., Goleta, CA, 93117, (805) 685 1069 (r) and (805) 968 3551 (o)

* About 5% of the jobs are part time

** Mostly holders of two-year (Associates') degrees

Hmong Community — **Visalia, California** (Tulare County)

Includes: Exeter, Farmersville, Lindsay, Porterville, Tulare

Number of Families: 282

Number of Individuals: 1,853

Largest Clans: Chang, Vang, Xiong, Moua

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	57	
Families with one worker:	most	
Families with two or more workers:	few	
Common jobs for men:	electronics	restaurants
	govt. programs	janitorial
Common jobs for women:	electronics	sewing
	child care	
Average hourly wage:	men: $5.75	women: $4.25
Average annual income, single worker families:	$11,960	
Average annual income, multi-worker families:	$20,800	
Number of families with private medical insurance:	2	

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	225

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	none known
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	4*
Number of current college students	20
Number of college graduates	12

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing steadily.
Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 15

MAA Status

Government funded MAA provides placement, counselling services.

Host Community

Visalia is 25 miles southeast of Fresno, it is a city of 50,000 in a county with both farms and factories. The general unemployment rate is 10.5%, well above the U.S. average.

For more information: Kou L. Vang, Lao Family Community, 247 W. Ferguson St., Visalia 93291 (209) 738 3371 (o)

* these are three oriental food stores and one clothing store

Hmong Community **Yuba, California** (Yuba, Sutter and Butte Counties)

Includes: Marysville, Oroville, Chico, Paradise

Number of Families: 650

Number of Individuals: 4,000

Largest Clans: Yang, Vang, Thao, Xiong, Lee

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		30
Families with one worker:		20
Families with two or more workers:		10
Common jobs for men:	counsellor	social worker
	teacher's aide	shop keeper
Common jobs for women:	shop keeper	social worker
	translator	
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.50	women: $7.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$15,600
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$30,160
Number of families with private medical insurance:		16

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	620

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	4
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	5 (groceries)
Number of current college students	40
Number of college graduates	15

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing rapidly since it was founded in 1984. (In fact, this estimate, of 4,000 is an increase from an estimate of 2,500 received earlier this year.) Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: about 50

MAA Status and Refugee Services

There is no MAA. Refugee services, such as ESL and vocational training, are provided by the counties.

Host Community

These towns, of 8,000 - 10,000 population each, are located 50-100 miles north of Sacramento in a farming area. The general unemployment rate is 11.7%, about twice the U.S. average.

For more information: Chou Yang, social worker, Yuba County Gain Program, 6000 Lindhurst Ave., Marysville, California, 95901 (916) 741 6387 (o)

Hmong Community — **Denver, Colorado** (Adams, Arapahoe, Denver and Jefferson Counties)

Number of Families: 260

Number of Individuals: 1,300

Largest Clans: Yang, Lee, Lo, Xiong and Vue

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	220	
Families with one worker:	110	
Families with two or more workers:	110	
Common jobs for men:	electronic assembly	other factory
	service work	laborer
Common jobs for women:	assembly	sewing
	services	hotel work
Average hourly wage:	men: $6.00	women: $5.25
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$12,480
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$23,400
Number of families with private medical insurance:		most

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	41*

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	100
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	3**
Number of current college students	50
Number of college graduates	20

Hmong population trends

Population is now relatively stable, but it shrank in the early 1980s. Many new families from overseas have arrived in last year.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Refugee services are provided directly by the Office of the State Refugee Coordinator (SRC), which has two Hmong staff members. Currently there is no funded Hmong MAA.

Host Community Denver is a city of 493,000; the capital of Colorado, it is located near the Rocky Mountains. The general unemployment rate is 7.1%, which is above the U.S. average.

For more information: Nhia Lee, President, United Xeng Hmong, 4160 W. Shaw Blvd., Westminister, CO, 80030 (303) 427 8098 (r)

* In addition to the 41 families, there are 14 cases of recent arrivals (singles and childless couples), seven disabled persons and 11 older ones, all in the U.S for under 24 months. According to the SRC, there is a total of 73 cases involving 208 persons.

** a grocery, a print shop and a jewelry store

Hmong Community — **Greater Hartford, Connecticut** (Hartford County)

Number of Families: 47

Number of Individuals: 300

Largest Clans: Yang, Xiong, Lor

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	44	
Families with one worker:	2	
Families with two or more workers:	42	
Common jobs for men:	machine shop	operator
Common jobs for women:	machine operator	assembly
Average hourly wage:	men: $8.50	women: $7.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$17,680
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$32,240
Number of families with private medical insurance:		44

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	3

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	15
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	10
Number of college graduates	0

Hmong population trends

The population has varied in recent years, but it has risen since 1983. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 7

MAA Status and Refugee Services

The local Hmong MAA no longer receives funding separately, but refugee services are provided by the Connecticut Federation of Refugee Assistance Associations, which has a full-time Hmong staff member.

Host Community

Hartford is a state capital and an insurance center and is a city of 137,000, about halfway between New York City and Boston. The general unemployment rate is 4.0%, well below the U.S. average.

For more information: Vue Pao Xiong, Connecticut Federation of Refugee Assistance Associations, 274 Park Rd., W. Hartford, CT, 06119, (203) 232 6770 (o)

Hmong Community — **Atlanta, Georgia** (DeKalb, Fulton Counties) — Includes: Decatur, Stone Mountain

Number of Families: 174

Number of Individuals: 823

Largest Clans: Xiong, Yang, Moua, Vang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	174	
Families with one worker:	30	
Families with two or more workers:	144	
Common jobs for men:	electronic assembly	machinist
Common jobs for women:	electronic assembly	sewing
Average hourly wage: men:	$8.50	women: $6.75
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$17,680
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$31,720
Number of families with private medical insurance:		131

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	0

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	74
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	3 (two restaurants and a financial services firm)
Number of current college students	14
Number of college graduates	1

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing steadily.
Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 11

MAA Status and Refugee Services

A variety of placement and social services are provided by the funded MAA, including relocation assistance under the Planned Secondary Resettlement (PSR) program. PSR helps eligible refugees (those unemployed and/or on welfare) move, finds them housing (and helps pay for it at first), and finds jobs. It is one of five agencies providing PSR services in the nation.

Host Community

Most of the Hmong live in Decatur and Stone Mountain, east of downtown Atlanta. That fast-growing metropolitan area has a wide range of economic activities, services, manufacturing and corporate headquarters. Its general unemployment rate, 4.6%, is well below the U.S. average.

For more information: Siong Koua Vangchiasong, Executive Director, Lao Family Community Assn., 4336 Covington Hwy., Suite 103, Decatur, GA, 30035, (404) 288 4381 (o)

Hmong Community — **Chicago, Illinois** (Cook County)

Number of Families: 31

Number of Individuals: 186

Largest Clan: Xiong

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	28	
Families with one worker:	13	
Families with two or more workers:	15	
Common jobs for men:	factory work painting trucks	fixing trucks
Common jobs for women:	assembly	
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.00	women: $4.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$14,560
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$22,880
Number of families with private medical insurance:		28

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	3*

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	9
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	2 (landlords)
Number of current college students	14 (statewide)
Number of college graduates	10 (statewide)

Hmong population trends

Population has declined sharply in recent years; there once were 250 Hmong families in the area. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 10, of whom 7 have left.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

A Hmong MAA, which once provided social services, now has limited funding for the promotion of craft (pan dau) sales. Other refugee services (ESL, job placement) are provided by voluntary agencies.

Host Community

Chicago, America's third largest city, has a population of about 3,000,000; it has a strong commercial, but a declining industrial base. The general unemployment rate is 6.6%, a little above the U.S. average.

For more information: Paoze Thao (312) 353 9770 (o)

* plus two elderly individuals on SSI

Hmong Community Dixon, Illinois (Lee County)

Number of Families: 5

Number of Individuals: 30

Largest Clans: Yang, Khang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	4	
Families with one worker:	1	
Families with two or more workers:	3	
Common jobs for men:	machinist	welder
Common jobs for women:	mushroom picker	sewing
Average hourly wage: men:	$9.00	women: $5.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$18,720
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$29,120
Number of families with private medical insurance:		5

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	1 (SSI)

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	3
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	0
Number of college graduates	0

Hmong population trends

The population has declined substantially. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: none.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

There is no funded MAA. Refugee services (job placement, ESL and social services) are provided by the local community college.

Host Community

Dixon is a small city with declining population (15,000) about 100 miles west of Chicago. It is in a rural area. The general unemployment rate is 8.1%, which is above the U.S. average.

For more information: Nyia Yang, 115 E. 8th St., Dixon, IL, 61021, (815) 288 2561 (r)

Hmong Community — **Several small communities in Downstate Illinois**

Includes: Danville, Kankakee, Moline, Ottowa, Rochelle, Rockford

Number of Families: 32

Number of Individuals: 186

Largest Clans: n.d.

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	31
Number of one-worker families	11
Number of two-or-more-worker families:	20

Common jobs for men:	factory work primarily	
Common jobs for women:	factory work primarily	
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.00	women: $4.00
Average annual income, single worker families:		$14,560
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$22,880
Number of families with private medical insurance:		most

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	1

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	21	
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	1	(grocery in Kankakee)
Number of current college students	*	
Number of college graduates	*	

Hmong population trends

The population of all of these communities has been shrinking in recent years. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: few

MAA Status and Refugee Services

No active MAA, no refugee-specific services

Host Communities

These are small cities scattered across the state, many are quite distant from each other. The largest concentration, 8 families, are in Danville, a city of 43,000.

For more information: Paoze Thao, (312) 353 9770 (o)

* for state-wide data on college students and graduates see page on Chicago

Hmong Community — **Wheaton, Illinois** (Du Page County) — Includes: several nearby towns

Number of Families: 40

Number of Individuals: 300

Largest Clans: Xiong, Yang, Thao, Vang, Kong

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	34	
Families with one worker:	17	
Families with two or more workers:	17	
Common jobs for men:	assembly engineering	factory work
Common jobs for women:	assembly services	factory work
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.60	women: $5.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$15,808
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$26,208
Number of families with private medical insurance:		27

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	8

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	3
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	(see page on Chicago)
Number of college graduates	(see page on Chicago)

Hmong population trends

The population has declined a little since 1983. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 14

MAA Status and Refugee Services

There is no funded MAA, and refugee-specific services, such as placement, social, ESL and immigration services, are provided by World Relief.

Host Community

Wheaton, a city of 43,000 population, is west of Chicago. Being a prosperous suburb it has a lower general unemployment rate, 4.1%, than the U.S. average.

For more information: Djoua Xiong, President, Moob Federation of America, PO Box 56, Winfield, IL, 60190, (312) 665 6526 (r), (312) 462 7566 (o)

(Moob is an alternative spelling of Hmong)

Hmong Community — **Indianapolis, Indiana** (Marion, Hancock and Hamilton Counties) — Includes: Greenfield

Number of Families: 13

Number of Individuals: 65

Largest Clans: Vang, Yang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		13
Families with one worker:		0
Families with two or more workers:		13
Common jobs for men:	assembly	technician
	engineer	computer operator
Common jobs for women:	assembly	restaurants
Average hourly wage:	men: $10.00*	women: $10.00*
Average annual income, one-worker families:		n.a.
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$41,600*
Number of families with private medical insurance:		13

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	1 on SSI

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	9
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	2
Number of current college students	8
Number of college graduates	1

Hmong population trends

Population has shrunk substantially in recent years.
Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 1

MAA Status and Refugee Services

No funded MAA; services are provided by voluntary agencies.

Host Community

Indianapolis is a city of 700,000 surrounded by farmland; it is in the center of the state. The general unemployment rate is 5.2%, less than the U.S. average.

For more information: Teng Yang, President, Laotian MAA of Indiana, 402 N. Harrison St., Greenfield, IN, 46140, (317) 462 3514 (r).

* The $10-an-hour wage rates, particularly for the women, are remarkable (as other data in this report shows.) According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Indiana factory production workers, in general, earned $11.31 per hour in 1987.

Hmong Community **Des Moines, Iowa** (Polk and other counties)

Includes: Decorah, Oskaloosa, Pella, Sioux City, Storm Lake

Number of Families: 100

Number of Individuals: 403

Largest Clans: Lee

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		97
Families with one worker:		0
Families with two or more workers:		97
Common jobs for men:	meat packing	factory work
	self-employment	human services
Common jobs for women:	meat packing	factory work
	sewing	
Average hourly wage:	men: $5.35	women: $4.35
Average annual income, one-worker families:		n.a.
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$20,176
Number of families with private medical insurance:		most

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	3

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	7
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	4*
Number of current college students	12
Number of college graduates	9

Hmong population trends

Population has shrunk considerably in recent years, it once was estimated at 1,400. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 5. There are also two Iu Mien families in the state.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

There was no funded MAA as of Sept. 30, 1988; refugee services are provided, in an unusual arrangement, directly by the State, which employs one Hmong social worker.

Host Community

Des Moines, a city of 191,000 is in the center of the state, is the state capital, and is a trading center for a farm area. The general unemployment rate is 4.4%, below the U.S. average. Many Hmong work at meat packing plants in Sioux City and Storm Lake.

For more information: Vue Ly, President, Lao Family Community, 1515 Jefferson Ave., Des Moines, IA, 50314, (515) 270 8614 (r)

* a farm, a printshop, a drycleaner and a tailoring shop

Hmong Community — **Kansas City, Kansas** (Wyandotte County)

Number of Families: 90

Number of Individuals: 600

Largest Clans: Her, Xiong, Yang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		65
Families with one worker:		32
Families with two or more workers:		33
Common jobs for men:	factory worker	assembly
Common jobs for women:	factory worker	assembly
	cook	housekeeping
Average hourly wage:	men: $5.00	women: $5.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$10,400
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$20,800
Number of families with private medical insurance:		13

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	25

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	34
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	6
Number of college graduates	3

Hmong population trends

Population has been shrinking.
Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 30

MAA Status and Refugee Services

The Hmong MAA received private funding (it has not Government funds) in the fall of 1988, and will be providing refugee services.

Host Community

Kansas City, Kansas, is next to and west of the larger Kansas City, Missouri; it is a city of 161,000, and the general unemployment rate is 5.4%, a little less than the U.S. average.

For more information: Chai Her, President, Lao Family Community, 2506 S. 48 Terrace, Kansas City, KS, 66106 (913) 236 9989 (r)

Hmong Community — **Brockton, Massachusetts** (Plymouth County)

Number of Families: 60

Number of Individuals: 350

Largest Clans: Her, Khang, Yang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	50
Families with one worker:	15
Families with two or more workers:	35

Common jobs for men: factory work assembly laborer
Common jobs for women: assembly

Average hourly wage:	men: $7.25	women:	$6.50
Average annual income, one-worker families:			$15,080
Average annual income, multi-worker families:			$28,600
Number of families with private medical insurance:			48

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	10

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	40
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	5
Number of college graduates	3

Hmong population trends

Population has increased in recent years.
Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 15

MAA Status and Refugee Services

There is a non-funded MAA. Refugee services (such as job placement, ESL, vocational training and mental health) are provided by other agencies.

Host Community

Brockton, 18 miles south of Boston, is a manufacturing city of about 80,000 population. The general unemployment rate is 3.3% which is much less than the U.S. average.

For more information: Ter T. Yang, President, Lao/Hmong Association of Massachusetts, 57 Nilson St., Brockton, Mass., 02401, (617) 584 3277 (r), (617) 782 6711 (o).

Hmong Community — **Fitchburg, Massachusetts** (Worcester County) — Includes: Leominster, Worcester, Hudson

Number of Families: 35

Number of Individuals: 175

Largest Clans: Yang, Moua

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	30
Families with one worker:	0
Families with two or more workers:	30
Common jobs for men:	assembly, machine shop, laborer, operator
Common jobs for women:	factory work
Average hourly wage: men:	$6.00
women:	$5.50
Average annual income, one-worker families:	n.a.
Average annual income, multi-worker families:	$23,920
Number of families with private medical insurance:	28

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	5 (new arrivals)

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	20
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	2
Number of college graduates	0

Hmong population trends

The population has been growing slowly recently but is now below the level of 1983. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 5

MAA Status and Refugee Services

No funded MAA, few refugee-specific services

Host Community

Fitchburg, a city of 40,000, is about 40 miles west of Boston. An old mill town, it has a general unemployment rate of 4.2%, which is less than the U.S. average.

For more information: Shoua Neng Yang, 493 Water St, Fitchburg, MA 01420. (617) 343-8405 (r).

Hmong Community — **Detroit, Michigan** (Wayne and Oakland Counties) — Includes: Hazel Park, Pontiac

Number of Families: 332

Number of Individuals: 1,879

Largest Clans: Yang, Kue, Lee, Chang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	129
Families with one worker:	5
Families with two or more workers:	124

Common jobs for men:	welder assembly	machine operator	
Common jobs for women:	assembly	laborer	
Average hourly wage:	men: $ 6.50	women:	$5.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:			$13,520
Average annual income, multi-worker families:			$23,920
Number of families with private medical insurance:			110

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	203

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	70
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	4*
Number of current college students	15
Number of college graduates	5

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing slowly.
Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 30

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Funded MAA provides social, employment and other services for refugees.

Host Community

Detroit is a city of 1.2 million dominated by the nation's major automakers. It is in the southeastern corner of Michigan, near Canada. The general unemployment rate is 8.1%, well above the U.S. average.

For more information: Contact Phia Gao Yang, Executive Director, Hmong Community, Inc. 13560 E. McNichols, Detroit, MI 48205 (313) 372-3600 (o)

* two restaurants and two groceries.

Hmong Community — Lansing, Michigan (Ingham County)

Number of Families: 95

Number of Individuals: 475

Largest Clans: Yang, Vang, Vue, Her

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		50
Families with one worker:		25
Families with two or more workers:		25
Common jobs for men:	machine shop operator	operator assembly
Common jobs for women:	sewing laundry worker	assembly bakery worker
Average hourly wage:	men: $8.00	women: $4.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$16,640
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$24,960
Number of families with private medical insurance:		40

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	45

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	7
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	5
Number of college graduates	2

Hmong population trends

Population has been shrinking slowly.
Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 5

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Non-funded MAA. Access to refugee-specific services not clear.

Host Community

The general unemployment rate is 6.7%, which is slightly higher than the U.S. average.

For more information: Ka Chue Yang, President, Lao Family Community, 321 W. Lapeer, Lansing, MI 48933. (517) 487-6531 (r)

Hmong Community — **Saginaw, Michigan** (Saginaw and Midland Counties) — Includes: Bay City, Midland, Richville

Number of Families: 45

Number of Individuals: 350

Largest Clans: Xiong, Hang, Thao, Vang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	22	
Families with one worker:	15	
Families with two or more workers:	7	
Common jobs for men:	machine operator, laborer	assembly
Common jobs for women:	same as men	
Average hourly wage: men:	$7.50	women: $5.50
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$15,600
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$27,040
Number of families with private medical insurance:		18

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	23

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	13	
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	3	(restaurants)
Number of current college students	10	
Number of college graduates	2	

Hmong population trends

Population has been shrinking.
Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 5

MAA Status and Refugee Services

The local MAA has no funding, and the availability of refugee-specific services is unclear.

Host Community

Saginaw is an industrial city of 77,000 on the shores of Lake Huron, a hundred miles or so north of Detroit. The Hmong live in several towns in the Saginaw area. The general unemployment rate is 8.7%, above the U.S. average.

For more information: Lee Hang, President, Tricities Lao Hmong Association 9369 W. Saginaw, Richville, MI, 48758, or PO Box 5632, Saginaw, MI 48603; (517) 868 4518 (r) or (517) 754 7911 (o)

Hmong Community — St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota (Ramsey and Hennepin Counties)

Number of Families: 2,330

Number of Individuals: 13,450*

Largest Clans: Vang, Yang, Xiong, Lee

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:			860
Families with one worker:			n.d.
Families with two or more workers:			n.d.
Common jobs for men:	technician		janitor
	assembly		machine shop
Common jobs for women:	dishwasher	janitor	counsellor
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.00		women: $5.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:			$14,560
Average annual income, multi-worker families:			$24,960
Number of families with private medical insurance:			694

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare: SRC estimates 63% of the Hmong families are on cash assistance, or about 1,470 families.

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	150
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	15 (mostly groceries)
Number of current college students	360
Number of college graduates	48**

Hmong population trends

Population has been increasing. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 600 or so. SRC estimates that 3400 Hmong live in Minneapolis, and 9500 in St. Paul

MAA Status and Refugee Services

There are four funded MAAs; see following page.

Host Communities.

St. Paul, a city of 270,000 is the state capital. Nearby Minneapolis is a city of 370,000, and is the site of the State University which has a center studying the Hmong. The state is a farming and manufacturing area. The general unemployment rate of the Twin Cities is 4.4%, well below the U.S. average.

For more information: see following page.

* The 13,450 figure is a midpoint between the estimates made by the SRC, 12,900 as of July 1987, and by the Lao Family Community, 14,000 as of June, 1988.

** Includes two lawyers, apparently the only U.S. Hmong lawyers

More Information on Minneapolis and St. Paul

Funded MAAs:

Mao Her Thao, President, Women's Association of Hmong and Lao, 1544 Timberlake Rd., St. Paul, MN, 55117 (612) 488 0243 (o)

Ying Vang, Executive Director, Lao Family Community of Minnesota, 976 W. Minnehaha Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104 (612) 487 3466 (o)

Ah Xiong, Director, Association for the Advancement of Hmong Women (AFTAOHW) 3027 Chicago Ave., S., second floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55407 (612) 823 4238 (o)

Chia Vue, Executive Director, Lao Family Community-Minneapolis Branch, 1925 Nicollet Ave., S, Minneapolis, MN 55403

These agencies and others provide a range of placement, ESL and social services. The State's system of vocational institutes provides an above-average range of vocational training opportunities for refugees.

Southeast Asian Refugee Studies Project (SARS)

For information on the studies and publications of this organization, which has done a substantial body of work about Hmong and other Southeast Asian refugees, write to SARS, University of Minnesota, 330 Hubert Humphrey Center, 301 19th Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

Hmong Community — **Rochester, Minnesota** (Olmsted County)

Number of Families: 56

Number of Individuals: 250

Largest Clans: Yang, Moua, Her, Cha

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		43
Families with one worker:		16
Families with two or more workers:		27
Common jobs for men:	factory work	laborer
	computer technician	
Common jobs for women:	factory work	assembly
	health aides	food service
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.00	women: $5.50
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$14,560
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$26,000
Number of families with private medical insurance:		47

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	13

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	5
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	4
Number of college graduates	3

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing steadily. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: about 30. There are also Lao Tinh, Lahu and Lao Lue in the area -- see next section.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Employment and social services are provided by a multi-ethnic MAA; other refugee services are provided by voluntary agencies, and vocational training by the Rochester Technical Institute. Efforts are being made to expand mental health services.

Host Community

Rochester is a city of 57,000, some 80 miles south and east of St.Paul; it is a commercial center in a rural area; the general unemployment rate is 4.0 %, less than the U.S. average.

For more information: William Yang, Intercultural MAA, 16 S.W. 7th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902 (507) 289 5960 (o)

Hmong Community **Billings, Montana** (Yellowstone County)

Number of Families: 40

Number of Individuals: 154

Largest Clans: Thao, Vang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	33	
Families with one worker:	0	
Families with two or more workers:	33	
Common jobs for men:	custodian, human services	services
Common jobs for women:	factory work	services
Average hourly wage:	men: $5.00	women: $4.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		n.a.
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$18,720
Number of families with private medical insurance:		26

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	7

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	2
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	0
Number of college graduates	0

Hmong population trends

Population is at roughly the same level as five years ago, having increased a little and then has shrunk in recent years. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 10.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

A funded MAA provides resettlement, social and employment services, also ESL and on-the-job training.

Host Community

Billings, at 100,000, is the largest city in Montana; it is a center of farming and some oil refining activities. The general unemployment rate is 7.2%, which is above the U.S. average.

For more information: Neng Ky Cha, Executive Director, Montana Association for Refugee Services, 1211 Grand Ave., Billings, Montana 59102 (406) 252 5601 ext.48 (o)

Hmong Community — **Missoula, Montana** (Missoula County)

Number of Families: 53

Number of Individuals: 236

Largest Clans: Moua, Yang, Thao

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	13	
Families with one worker:	8	
Families with two or more workers:	5	
Common jobs for men:	factory work	janitor
Common jobs for women:	janitor service work	sewing
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.50	women: $3.75
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$15,600
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$23,400
Number of families with private medical insurance:		0

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	40

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	7
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	5
Number of college graduates	0

Hmong population trends

Population has decreased sharply in recent years; there were once nearly 1,500 Hmong in the area. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 15

MAA Status and Refugee Services

A funded MAA provides employment, ESL and social services.

Host Community

Missoula, a city of 33,000, is in the mountains about 200 miles west of Billings, Montana. The general unemployment rate is 7.5%, which is above the U.S. average.

For more information: Nhia Kou Lee, Executive Director, Refugee Assistance Corp., 1206 W Kent Street, Missoula, MT, 59801 (406) 721 5052 (o)

Hmong Community Omaha, Nebraska and nearby communities (Douglas County)

Number of Families: 45

Number of Individuals: 366

Largest Clans: Lo, Xiong, Yang, Vang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		40
Families with one worker:		25
Families with two or more workers:		15
Common jobs for men:	technician	assembly
	welding	butcher
Common jobs for women:	teacher's aide	clerical work
	computer operator	factory work
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.50	women: $5.50
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$15,600
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$27,040
Number of families with private medical insurance:		38

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	5

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	20	
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	1	(restaurant)
Number of current college students	19	
Number of college graduates	5	

Hmong population trends

Population is growing slowly. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 6

MAA Status and Refugee Services

A funded, Hmong-managed MAA provides services to all refugees in the area, including placement, ESL and social services. Vocational training is also available.

Host Community

Omaha, the largest city in Nebraska (313,000) sits in the middle of the great plains. Many Hmong live in smaller cities nearby. The general unemployment rate in Omaha is 5.2%, which is less than the U.S. average.

For more information: LorMong LaoHmong Lo, Executive Director, Lao Hmong Association of Nebraska, 4831 Dodge St., Suite D, Omaha, NE, 68132, (402) 551 0454 (o)

Hmong Community — **Bound Brook, New Jersey** (Somerset County)

Number of Families: 10

Number of Individuals: 70

Largest Clans: Her, Yang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	10	
Families with one worker:	1	
Families with two or more workers:	9	
Common jobs for men:	factory work data control	computer operator
Common jobs for women:	factory work	
Average hourly wage:	men: $12.00	women: $5.50
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$24,960
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$36,400
Number of families with private medical insurance:		10

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	0

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	3
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	2
Number of college graduates	1

Hmong population trends

Population has been declining slowly. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 1

MAA Status and Refugee Services

There is no funded MAA, but there is a a Hmong ministry; access to refugee-specific services is not clear.

Host Community

Bound Brook, a factory town and suburb of 10,000, is about 30 miles west of New York City. The general unemployment rate is 2.9%, about half that of the U.S. as a whole. Some of the Hmong in the area live in nearby towns such as Piscataway, Metuchen, Belle Meade and Branchburg.

For more information: Cher Lue Vang, Minister, Hmong Ministry, U.M.C., 150 W. Union Ave., Bound Brook, N.J. 08805 (201) 356 1882 (o) (201) 752 5725 (r)

Hmong Community **Syracuse, New York** (Onondago County)

Number of Families: 57

Number of Individuals: 300

Largest Clans: Lee, Her, Yang, Lor, Thao, Vue, and Xiong

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	49	
Families with one worker:	9	
Families with two or more workers:	40	
Common jobs for men:	factory production, human services,	maintenance, engineer
Common jobs for women:	factory production	housekeeping
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.00	women: $6.00
Average annual income, single worker families:		$14,560
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$27,040
Number of families with private medical insurance:		40

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	8

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	16
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	1
Number of current college students	11
Number of college graduates	14

Hmong population trends

There has been an outmigration of 15 families in last three years but 25 families have arrived, 18 from overseas.

MAA Status

There is no longer a funded MAA, but services are provided by Refugee Family Program, 408 Easy Willow Street, Syracuse, N.Y. 13203

Host Community

Syracuse is a city of 170,000 near Lake Ontario in upstate New York. The unemployment rate is 6.1%, slightly below the national average.

For more information: Robert Huss, Refugee Family Program, (315) 425 4982 (o) or Tou Lee, Refugee Family Program, (315) 425 4667 (o)

Hmong Community — **Charlotte, North Carolina** (Mecklenburg County)

Number of Families: 22

Number of Individuals: 109

Largest Clans: Vang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	21	
Families with one worker:	6	
Families with two or more workers:	15	
Common jobs for men:	factory work	assembly
	computer technician	
Common jobs for women:	sewing	assembly
Average hourly wage:	men: $5.50	women: $5.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$11,440
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$21,840
Number of families with private medical insurance:		16

Welfare utilization

No. families on welfare: one family and two individuals on SSI

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	5
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	0
Number of college graduates	0

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing slowly. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 5

MAA Status and Refugee Services

A variety of placement and social services are provided by Catholic Social Services, including relocation assistance under the Planned Secondary Resettlement (PSR) program. PSR helps eligible refugees move (those unemployed or on welfare) move, finds them housing (and helps pay for it at first), and finds jobs. This is one of five agencies providing PSR services in the nation.

Host Community

Charlotte is a large (315,000 population), fast-growing city in North Carolina, halfway between the mountains and the sea. The general unemployment rate is 3.7%, below the U.S. average.

For more information: Chue Vang, Hmong Community of Charlotte, 3919 Tennessee Ave., Charlotte, NC 28208 (704) 398 0406 (r) or Pheng Vang, Catholic Charities, 2211 Springdale Ave., Charlotte, NC 28203 (704) 377 3907 (o)

Hmong Community **Morganton, North Carolina** (Burke and McDowell Counties) Includes: Aberdeen, Albermarle, Hickory, Marion

Number of Families: 75

Number of Individuals: 534

Largest Clans: Lo, Vang, Yang, Lee

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	70	
Families with one worker:	25	
Families with two or more workers:	45	
Common jobs for men:	factory work electronic assembly	machinist
Common jobs for women:	electronic assembly medical products worker	textile worker
Average hourly wage:	men: $6.12	women: $4.96
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$12,730
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$23,046
Number of families with private medical insurance:		63

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	5

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	50	(including some farms)
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	2	(including a grocery)
Number of current college students	3	
Number of college graduates	0	

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing steadily because of the PSR program (described below.) Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 10

MAA Status and Refugee Services

A variety of placement and social services are provided by the funded MAA, including relocation assistance under the Planned Secondary Resettlement (PSR) program. PSR helps eligible refugees (those unemployed and/or on welfare) move, finds them housing (and helps pay for it at first), and finds jobs. It is one of five agencies providing PSR services in the nation.

Host Community Morganton, a city of 15,000, is in farming country in the hills of the state, near many textile and furniture companies. The general unemployment rate is 3.3%, about half the U.S. average. Subsidized housing is often available for large families.

For more information: Kue Chaw, Executive Director, Hmong Natural Association, PO Box 1709, Morganton, NC 28655 (704) 433 8475 (o)

Hmong Community Samthong Village, Mt. Gilead, North Carolina (Montgomery and Stanley Counties)

Number of Families: 35

Number of Individuals: 175

Largest Clans: Vang, Lee, Xiong, Yang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		35
Families with one worker:		0
Families with two or more workers:		35
Common jobs for men:	factory worker	laborer
	machine shop	welder
Common jobs for women:	assembly	sewing
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.50	women: $5.50
Average annual income, one-worker families:		n.a.
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$27,040
Number of families with private medical insurance:		35

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	0

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	25*
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	0
Number of college graduates	0

Hmong population trends

This community was founded in 1987. Most residents work for a boot factory, owned by McRae Industries. No families have come to the area from overseas. McRae reimburses new families of workers for actual moving expenses (up to $500), provides free housing for three months, and then helps families buy a mobile home on a tract of land.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

There currently is no MAA in the area and what services are provided are those offered by other Hmong, as volunteers.

Host Community

Mt. Gilead is a town of less than 2,000 people, about 50 miles east of Charlotte, N.C. The general unemployment rate in the area is 4.1%, which is less than the U.S. average.

For more information: Ger Vang, Community Liaison, McRae Industries, Inc., Route 3, Box 2013, Mount Gilead, N.C. 27306 (919) 439 9533 (r) or Neng Vang, Samthong Village, Route 3, Box 2009, Mt. Gilead, N.C., 27306 (919) 439 9584 (r)

Hmong Community — **Akron, Ohio** (Summit and Medina Counties) — Includes: Medina

Number of Families: 82

Number of Individuals: 361

Largest Clans: Vue, Vang, Yang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		56	
Families with one worker:		34	
Families with two or more workers:		22	
Common jobs for men:	machine operator		
Common jobs for women:	sewing	assembly	
Average hourly wage:	men: $6.50	women:	$4.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:			$13,520
Average annual income, multi-worker families:			$21,840
Number of families with private medical insurance:			56

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	26*

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	23
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	11
Number of college graduates	3

Hmong population trends

The population has been increasing. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 28

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Refugee services, including employment and social services, ESL and immigration counselling, are provided by the International Institute; vocational training is also available. There is no longer a funded MAA.

Host Community

Akron is typical of many northeastern U.S. cities, declining in population and losing its industrial base. (It used to be the heart of the tire industry.) The general unemployment rate is 7.1%, which is above the U.S. average.

For more information: Nhia Lor Vang, President, Lao of Northeast Ohio, 749 Anderson Ave., Akron, OH 44306 (216) 773 6448 (r) or Va Vang or Nancy Dodds, International Institute of Akron, 207 E. Tallmadge, Akron, Ohio 44310 (216) 376 5106 (o)

* there are also 12 individuals on SSI

Hmong Community Toledo, Ohio (Lucas County)

Number of Families: 22

Number of Individuals: 94

Largest Clans: Xiong, Vang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	6	
Families with one worker:	3	
Families with two or more workers:	3	
Common jobs for men:	service worker	assembly
	shop keeper	maintenance
Common jobs for women:	cashier	assembly
Average hourly wage:	men: $8.00	women: $4.50
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$16,640
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$26,000
Number of families with private medical insurance:		6

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	16

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	0
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	6
Number of college graduates	1

Hmong population trends

Population has been declining rapidly. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 10

MAA Status and Refugee Services

There is no funded MAA. ESL is available from a Catholic agency.

Host Community

Toledo, about 50 miles south of Detroit in western Ohio, is a city of 355,000; its industrial base and its population are both declining. The general unemployment rate is 7.3%, a little above the U.S. average.

For more information: Vang D. Xiong, President, Lao Family Community, 1808 N. Erie St., Toledo, OH, 43611 (419) 726 8418 (r)

Hmong Community — **Tulsa, Oklahoma** (Tulsa County) — Includes: Jenks

Number of Families: 42

Number of Individuals: 300

Largest Clans: Vue, Yang, Vang, Chang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	36	
Families with one worker:	5	
Families with two or more workers:	31	
Common jobs for men:	machine operator mechanic	assembly
Common jobs for women:	sewing service worker	assembly
Average hourly wage:	men: $8.00	women: $5.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$16,640
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$27,040
Number of families with private medical insurance:		36

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	6

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	4
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	12
Number of college graduates	4

Hmong population trends

Population has been declining from a peak of 150 families several years ago. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: about 10

MAA Status and Refugee Services

There is no funded MAA. Refugee services, including resettlement and ESL, are provided by a Catholic agency.

Host Community

Tulsa, a city of 360,000, is heavily dependent on oil, which has been a troubled industry of late. The general unemployment rate is 8.3%, well above the U.S. average.

For more information: Nhia Sue Yang, President, Hmong/American Assn. of Oklahoma, 1404 S 107 E Ave # D, Tulsa, OK 74128 (918) 437 9137 (r)

Hmong Community — **Portland, Oregon** (Multnomah County) — Includes: Salem

Number of Families: 135

Number of Individuals: 1,130

Largest Clans: Cha, Lee, Vang, Thao

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		117
Families with one worker:		4
Families with two or more workers:		113
Common jobs for men:	human services	maintenance
	factory work	
Common jobs for women:	assembly	sewing
	services	laborer
Average hourly wage:	men: $9.00	women: $5.50
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$18,720
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$30,160
Number of families with private medical insurance:		117

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	18 (single parents)

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	68
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	5*
Number of current college students	25
Number of college graduates	17**

Hmong population trends

Population has declined sharply from its peak of 4,500 several years ago. New families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 17

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Refugee services are provided the International Refugee Center of Oregon, such as placement services, economic development and ESL. There is a Hmong MAA, but it is not funded.

Host Community

Portland, the largest city in the state, has 370,000 people; Salem, where some of the Hmong live, is nearby, is smaller and is the state capital. The general unemployment rate in Portland is 5.3%, which is less than the U.S. average.

For more information: John Cha, President, Hmong American Association of Oregon, PO Box 06569, Portland OR 97206, (503) 760 6855 (r)

* 3 landscape firms, an insurance agency and a janitorial service
** of these 7 have bachelors' degrees, the rest associates'

Hmong Community — Leola and other Central Pennsylvania cities (Lancaster and nearby Counties)

Number of Families: 54

Number of Individuals: 350

Largest Clans: Yang, Moua

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		44	
Families with one worker:		40	
Families with two or more workers:		4	
Common jobs for men:	draftsman	steel worker	
	construction	engineer	
Common jobs for women:	assembly	maintenance	
Average hourly wage:	men: $8.50	women:	$6.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:			$17,680
Average annual income, multi-worker families:			$30,160
Number of families with private medical insurance:			44

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	10

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	44
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	5
Number of college graduates	1

Hmong population trends

Population has been stable. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 3

MAA Status and Refugee Services

There is an MAA, but it is not funded. Access to refugee services is not clear.

Host Communities

The Hmong live in a dozen small to medium-sized cities in the central part of the state. The general unemployment rate of Lancaster County, where some of them live, is 3.8%, well below the U.S. average.

For more information: Chong Neng Thao, Minister, Hmong Alliance Church, 9. S. Hershey Ave., Leola, PA 17540 (717) 656 0523 (r) and (717) 656 0565 (o)

Hmong Community — **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania** (Philadelphia County) Includes: Upper Darby

Number of Families: 56

Number of Individuals: 400

Largest Clans: Lor, Xiong, Kue, Hang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	46	
Families with one worker:	23	
Families with two or more workers:	23	
Common jobs for men:	mechanic	welder
	machine shop	service worker
Common jobs for women:	textiles	sewing
	machine operator	service worker
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.00	women: $6.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$14,560
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$27,040
Number of families with private medical insurance:		41

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	8

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	19
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	1 (grocery)
Number of current college students	4
Number of college graduates	4

Hmong population trends

Population has fallen sharply from a peak of more than 3,000. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 8

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Refugee services are provided by both the local MAA, which has private, but no government funding, and by the Nationality Services Center; the MAA handles social services, while the Services Center has ESL, job training and employment services.

Host Community

Philadelphia, a historic city of 1,700,000, is halfway between New York and Washington. The general unemployment rate is 4.4%, which is below the U.S. average.

For more information: Chai Hang, President, Hmong United Association of Pennsylvania, c/o St. Simeon Lutheran Church, 8th and Lucerne Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19140 (215) 225 0309 (o)

Hmong Community — **Providence, Rhode Island** (Providence County)

Number of Families: 311*

Number of Individuals: 2.178

Largest Clans: Yang, Xiong, Kue

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		247
Families with one worker:		91
Families with two or more workers:		156
Common jobs for men:	machine operator	factory work
	electronic technician	mechanic
Common jobs for women:	factory work	assembly
	laborer	nurse's aide
Average hourly wage:	men: $6.25	women: $6.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$13,000
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$25,480
Number of families with private medical insurance:		234

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	64**

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	97
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	6***
Number of current college students	35
Number of college graduates	15

Hmong population trends

Population has been declining slowly. The number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985 is not known.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Refugee services (such as ESL, orientation and job placement) are provided by Socio-Economic Development Center, an MAA coalition, and by Hmong/Lao Unity Association, both government-funded, and by other organizations such as OIC.

Host Community

Providence,a historic seaport, is a city of 157,000. The general unemployment rate is 3.7%, less than the U.S. average.

For more information: Tia N. Kha, Executive Director, Hmong/Lao Unity Association, 620 Potters Ave., Providence, RI 02907 (401) 941 8422 (o)

* includes at least twelve individuals counted as family units
** includes 12 single cases and 5 supplemental ones
*** gas stations (3), craft store, construction, restaurant

Hmong Community — **Spartanburg, South Carolina** (Spartanburg County)

Number of Families: 14

Number of Individuals: 84

Largest Clans: Lee, Moua, Lor

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:			13
Families with one worker:			0
Families with two or more workers:			13
Common jobs for men:	textile worker	technician	machine operator
Common jobs for women:	textile worker		
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.50	women:	$6.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:			n.a.
Average annual income, multi-worker families:			$28,080
Number of families with private medical insurance:			13

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	1

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	13
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	3
Number of college graduates	3

Hmong population trends

Population has grown slowly. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 1

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Refugee services are provided the local Catholic social service agency (such as placement and social services). There is no MAA.

Host Community

Spartanburg is a city of 43,000 in the hills of South Carolina, some 60 miles south and west of Charlotte, North Carolina. It is a textile center. The general unemployment rate is 4.4%, which is less than the U.S. average.

For more information: Ma Thor, 447 Lucerne Drive, Spartanburg, SC 29302 (803) 582 2438 (r)

Hmong Community — **Sioux Falls, South Dakota** (Minnehaha County)

Number of Families: 3

Number of Individuals: 22

Largest Clan: Yang

Employment: (there is limited information on employment)

Total number of families with workers:	3
Families with one worker:	0
Families with two or more workers:	3

Common jobs for men:	n.d.		
Common jobs for women:	n.d.		
Average hourly wage:	men: n.d.	women:	n.d.
Average annual income, one-worker families:			n.d.
Average annual income, multi-worker families:			n.d.
Number of families with private medical insurance:			n.d.

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	0

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	n.d.
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	n.d.
Number of current college students	0
Number of college graduates	0

Hmong population trends

Population has been stable. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: probably none. This appears to be the only Hmong community in the Dakotas.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

No MAA, access to refugee services probably is limited.

Host Community

Sioux Falls, the largest city in the State, (population: 81,000) is in its south east corner, and is surrounded by farm land. (The county, incidentally, is named after a legendary American Indian princess.) The general unemployment rate is 3.7%, which is below the U.S. average.

For more information: Yakao Yang, 723 N. Highland Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57103 (605) 332 6775 (r)

Hmong Community — **Memphis, Tennessee** (Shelby County)

Number of Families: 11

Number of Individuals: 65

Largest Clans: Lee, Vue, Yang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	11	
Families with one worker:	1	
Families with two or more workers:	10	
Common jobs for men:	factory work electronic technician	assembly
Common jobs for women:	jewelry worker	assembly
Average hourly wage:	men: $8.50	women: $5.50
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$17,680
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$29,120
Number of families with private medical insurance:		11

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	0

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	5
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	0
Number of college graduates	0

Hmong population trends

Population has declined sharply since the early 1980s.
Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 0

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Job placement and ESL services are provided by Catholic Charities. There is an MAA but it is not funded.

Host Community

Memphis, on the Mississippi River, is a city of 646,000. The general unemployment rate is 5.7%, which is below the U.S. average.

For more information: Blong Lee, President, Hmong Community of Tennessee, 2422 Spottswood Ave., Memphis, TN 38114 (901) 452 0477 (o)

Hmong Community — **Nashville, Tennessee** (Davidson County)

Number of Families: 6

Number of Individuals: 40

Largest Clans: Yang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	6		
Families with one worker:	0		
Families with two or more workers:	6		
Common jobs for men:	factory worker		
Common jobs for women:	factory worker		
Average hourly wage:	men: $10.00	women:	$6.50
Average annual income, one-worker families:			n.a.
Average annual income, multi-worker families:			$34,320
Number of families with private medical insurance:			6

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	0

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	6
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	0
Number of college graduates	0

Hmong population trends

Population has sharply declined since the early 1980s. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 0

MAA Status and Refugee Services

There is no MAA. Availability of refugee-specific services is not clear.

Host Community

Nashville, a city of about half a million, is in the hills of Tennessee and is the headquarters of America's country music industry. The general unemployment rate is 4.4%, well below the U.S. average.

For more information: Youa Vang Yang 104 Kevin St., Nashville, TN 37211 (615) 833 2203 (r)

Hmong Community — **Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas** (Dallas and Tarrant Counties)

Number of Families: 79

Number of Individuals: 395

Largest Clans: Thao, Lee, Xiong, Vang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		79
Families with one worker:		16
Families with two or more workers:		63 (9 parttime)
Common jobs for men:	assembly	machine operator
	cook	engineer
Common jobs for women:	assembly	housekeeping
	clerical	data processing
Average hourly wage:	men: $8.50	women: $6.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$17,680
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$30,160
Number of families with private medical insurance:		75

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	0 (there is one SSI case)

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	40
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	4*
Number of current college students	27
Number of college graduates	3

Hmong population trends

Population, after first declining, has grown steadily in last three years. New families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 7

MAA Status and Refugee Services

A variety of placement and social services are provided by the funded MAA, including relocation assistance under the Planned Secondary Resettlement (PSR) program. PSR helps eligible refugees (those unemployed and/or on welfare) move, finds them housing (and helps pay for it at first), and finds jobs. It is one of five agencies providing PSR services in the nation.

Host Community

Dallas, a city of 905,000, is in north central Texas; the general unemployment rate is 6.9%, a little over the U.S. average. The Hmong live in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

For more information: Thao Phia Xaykao, Executive Director, The Hmong-American Planning and Development Center, Suite P, 921 W. Highway 303, Grand Prairie, TX, 75051, (214) 988 0502 (o)

* real estate, insurance, construction, handcrafts

Hmong Community — **Salt Lake City, Utah** (Salt Lake County) — Includes: Ogden, Orem

Number of Families: 28

Number of Individuals: 168

Largest Clans: Vang, Lee, Cha

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	28	
Families with one worker:	3	
Families with two or more workers:	25	
Common jobs for men:	inspector	technician
	assembly	engineer
Common jobs for women:	assembly	clerical
	sewing	human Services
Average hourly wage:	men: $8.00	women: $6.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$16,640
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$29,120
Number of families with private medical insurance:		28

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	0

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	13
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	1 (construction)
Number of current college students	35
Number of college graduates	13

Hmong population trends

Population has shrunk sharply from its peak of 400 families in the early '80s. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: few if any.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Access to refugee services not clear to community leaders: there is an MAA, but it is not funded.

Host Community

Salt Lake City is located in the midst of a desert, next to Great Salt Lake. It is a city of 163,000 where the general unemployment rate is 5.7%, a little less than the U.S. average.

For more information: James Xaochay, President, Lao Community Inc, 795 W. 640 N, Orem, UT 84057 (801) 226-2512 (r)

Hmong Community **Sterling, Virginia** (Loudoun and Fairfax Counties)

Number of Families: 5

Number of Individuals: 34

Largest Clan: Lee

Employment: (little economic information is available)

Total number of families with workers:	5
Families with one worker:	1
Families with two or more workers:	4
Common jobs for men:	n.d.
Common jobs for women:	n.d.
Average hourly wage: men: n.d. women:	n.d.
Average annual income, one-worker families:	n.d.
Average annual income, multi-worker families:	n.d.
Number of families with private medical insurance:	5

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	0

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	2
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	1
Number of college graduates	0

Hmong population trends

Population has been shrinking. This group of five families includes one in nearby Reston, Va., and one in Greenbelt, Md., some 40 miles away. A number of families from overseas settled briefly in the area and then moved away.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

No MAA, community not clear about access to refugee services.

Host Community

Sterling, Reston and Greenbelt are all prosperous suburbs of Washington, D.C. The general unemployment rate of Fairfax County, for instance, is 1.9%, one of the lowest in the nation.

For more information: Xeng Ly, 112 W. Church Rd., Sterling, Va. 22170 (703) 444 5373 (r)

Hmong Community — Carnation, Washington (King County)

Number of Families: 25

Number of Individuals: 155

Largest Clans: Cha, Thao

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	25	
Families with one worker:	20	
Families with two or more workers:	5	
Common jobs for men:	warehouse work	services
	electronic assembly	landscaping
Common jobs for women:*	garden work	assembly
	nursing home aide	
Average hourly wage:	men: $8.00	women: $4.50
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$16,640
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$26,000
Number of families with private medical insurance:		13

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	0

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	7
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	4
Number of college graduates	0

Hmong population trends

Population has been shrinking. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 6

MAA Status and Refugee Services

ESL and vocational training provided by the Asian Resettlement Center. There is a Hmong MAA, but it is not funded.

Host Community

Carnation, and two other small towns where the Hmong live, Kirkland and Bothell, are all near to Seattle, where the general unemployment rate is 6.1%, about the U.S. average.

For more information: Fong Cha, President, Eastside Hmong Association, PO Box 810, Carnation, WA, 98014 (206) 333 4888 (o) or (206) 867 2703 (r)

Hmong Community **Pasco, Washington** (Benton and Franklin Counties) Includes: Kennewick

Number of Families: 15

Number of Individuals: 72

Largest Clans: Thao, Vang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	14
Families with one worker:	0
Families with two or more workers:	14 (1 parttime)

Common jobs for men:	meat cutter		
Common jobs for women:	factory work		
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.00	women:	$6.50
Average annual income, one-worker families:			n.a.
Average annual income, multi-worker families:			$28,080
Number of families with private medical insurance:			14

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	1

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	2
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	0
Number of college graduates	0

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing slowly in recent years, after a sharp drop in early 1980s. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 1

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Refugee services appear to be limited. There is no MAA.

Host Community

Pasco is a town of 18,000, located in a farming area in eastern Washington. It is 200 miles south and east of Seattle. The general unemployment rate is 9.5%, several points above the U.S. average.

For more information: Su Thao, 812 S. Belfair St., Kennewick, WA 99336 (509) 783 5964 (r) or (509) 547 7545 ext 225 (o)

Hmong Community — **Seattle, Washington** (King County)

Number of Families: 90

Number of Individuals: 600

Largest Clans: Vang, Lor, Hang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:			81*
Families with one worker:			24
Families with two or more workers:			57
Common jobs for men:	electronic technician factory work		services
Common jobs for women:	factory work teacher's aide		health aide
Average hourly wage:	men: $8.00	women:	$6.50
Average annual income, one-worker families:			$16,640
Average annual income, multi-worker families:			$30,160
Number of families with private medical insurance:			29

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	9

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	15
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	9 **
Number of current college students	6
Number of college graduates	2

Hmong population trends

Population has shrunk from a peak of 3,000 in the early 1980s.
Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 20

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Voluntary agencies provide some refugee services, such as ESL and vocational training; the local Hmong MAA is unfunded.

Host Community

Seattle, at 494,000 population, is the largest city in the state, and is near the Pacific Coast. The general unemployment rate is 6.1%, just about the U.S. average.

For more information: Vue L. Leenhiavue, President, Hmong Association of Washington, P.O. Box 18622, Seattle, WA, 98118 (206) 243 5955 (r)

* about one-eighth of the jobs are part time

Hmong Community — **Spokane, Washington** (Spokane County) — Includes: Cheney

Number of Families: 60

Number of Individuals: 355

Largest Clans: Xiong, Moua, Vue, Vang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		48*
Families with one worker:		20
Families with two or more workers:		28
Common jobs for men:	assembly	counsellor
	teacher	services
Common jobs for women:	assembly	services
	clerical work	bank teller
Average hourly wage:	men: $6.00	women: $4.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$12,480
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$20,800
Number of families with private medical insurance:		28

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	32**

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	6
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	2***
Number of current college students	15
Number of college graduates	20

Hmong population trends

Population has dropped sharply from early 1980s peak of 2,000. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 25

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Church World Service and other agencies offer refugee services including ESL and home tutoring. There is a non-funded Hmong MAA.

Host Community

Spokane is a city of 172,000 at the eastern edge of Washington, some 250 miles east of Seattle. The general unemployment rate is 7.5%, a little above the U.S. average.

For more information: See Vue, Lao Family Community, N. 2416 Myrtle, Spokane, WA 99207 (509) 484 8319 (r)

* about half the men's jobs and most of the women's are part time
** this includes 12 cases with only cash assistance, and 20 cases in which the assistance supplements low-income work
*** janitorial and landscaping firms

Hmong Community — **Appleton, Wisconsin** (Outagamie County) — Includes: Kaukauna, Kimberly, Neenah, Menasha

Number of Families: 350

Number of Individuals: 1,850

Largest Clans: Lee, Xiong

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	about 100*		
Families with one worker:	about 85		
Families with two or more workers:	about 15		
Common jobs for men:	factory work, welding	machine shop	
Common jobs for women:	assembly	sewing	
Average hourly wage:	men: $5.00	women:	$3.70
Average annual income, one-worker families:			$10,400
Average annual income, multi-worker families:			$18,096
Number of families with private medical insurance:			n.d.

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	252

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	20
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	5**
Number of current college students	25
Number of college graduates	6

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: not known, but substantial.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

There is a funded MAA which provides a variety of employment and social services, including training in home-making skills; vocational training is available at the Technical Institute.

Host Community

Appleton is a factory city of 58,000 where the general unemployment rate is 5.9%, about the U.S. average. It is about 100 miles north and a little west of Milwaukee.

For more information: Cha Ly, Executive Director, Fox Valley Lao Hmong Association, 825 S. Olde Oneida St., Appleton, WI 54915 (414) 739 3192 (o)

* many jobs are part time, some held by people on assistance

** two groceries, a restaurant and sub shop, an oriental video store and a landlord

Hmong Community — **Eau Claire, Wisconsin** (Eau Claire County) — Includes: Chippewa Falls, Lady Smith, Menomonie, Rice Lake

Number of Families: 365

Number of Individuals: 1,859

Largest Clans: Xiong, Yang, Vang, Moua

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		70*
Families with one worker:		52
Families with two or more workers:		18
Common jobs for men:	machine operator, janitor	assembly
Common jobs for women:	service	human services
Average hourly wage:	men: $5.00	women: $4.50
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$10,400
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$19,760
Number of families with private medical insurance:		2

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	313

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	2
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	3**
Number of current college students	61
Number of college graduates	6

Hmong population trends

Population has been increasing steadily in recent years. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 123

MAA Status and Refugee Services

A wide-range of refugee services are available from the funded Hmong MAA, and from voluntary agencies. Vocational training is provided by Chippewa Valley Technical College.

Host Community

Eau Claire (French for clear water) is a city of 53,000 in the western part of Wisconsin, about 250 miles north and west of Milwaukee and 100 miles east of St. Paul, Minnesota. The general unemployment rate is 6.1%, about the U.S. average.

For more information: Yong Kai Moua, Executive Director. Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, 1624 Billinger St., Eau Claire, WI 54703. (715) 832-8420 (o)

* about 43% of the jobs are part time

* two groceries and a restaurant

Hmong Community — **Fond du Lac, Wisconsin** (Fond du Lac County)

Number of Families: 17

Number of Individuals: 119

Largest Clans: Xiong, Vang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	3
Families with one worker:	3
Families with two or more workers:	0

Common jobs for men:	laborer		services
Common jobs for women:	n.a (no jobs for women were reported)		
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.00	women:	n.a.
Average annual income, one-worker families:			$14,560
Average annual income, multi-worker families:			n.a
Number of families with private medical insurance:			3

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	14

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	5
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	4
Number of college graduates	0

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing from secondary migration.
Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 0

MAA Status and Refugee Services

There is no MAA. ESL training is available.

Host Community

Fond du Lac, a city of 36,000, is 60 miles north and west of Milwaukee. The general unemployment rate is 6.3%, about the U.S. average.

For more information: John Blachong Xiong 197 W. Division St., Fond du Lac, WI 54935. (414) 923-1253 (r)

Hmong Community — **Green Bay, Wisconsin** (Brown County)

Number of Families: 282

Number of Individuals: 1,572

Largest Clans: Yang, Xiong, Lee, Vang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		61*
Families with one worker:		46
Families with two or more workers:		15
Common jobs for men:	laborer human services	services
Common jobs for women:	human services services	clerical aide
Average hourly wage:	men: $6.00	women: $5.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$12,480
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$22,880
Number of families with private medical insurance:		50

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	221

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	13
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	4 **
Number of current college students	6
Number of college graduates	3

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing steadily.
Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 35

MAA Status and Refugee Services

A Hmong MAA, with multiple sources of funding, provides a variety of refugee services, as do a number of other agencies.

Host Community

Green Bay, 100 miles north of Milwaukee, is a manufacturing city and home of the Green Bay Packers, the professional football team. The general unemployment rate is 6.0%, a little less than the U.S. average.

For more information: Koua S. Yang, Executive Director. Hmong Association of Brown County, 617 N. Irwin, Green Bay, WI 54302. (414) 432-8900 (o)

* some of these jobs are part time

** three groceries and one car dealer

Hmong Community — **La Crosse, Wisconsin** (La Crosse County) — Includes: Sparta

Number of Families: 271

Number of Individuals: 1,898

Largest Clans: Vue, Yang, Xiong, Moua

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	105*	
Families with one worker:	86	
Families with two or more workers:	19	
Common jobs for men:	human services	laborer
	assembly	machine operator
Common jobs for women:	laborer	assembly
	service aide	
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.50	women: $4.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:	$15,600**	
Average annual income, multi-worker families:	$23,920	
Number of families with private medical insurance:	27	

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	240

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	6
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	2 (groceries)
Number of current college students	20
Number of college graduates	2

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing, primarily from secondary migration. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: not known, but 30 have arrived during 1988.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

A funded MAA, and other agencies, provide a wide variety of refugee services. ESL and vocational training can be obtained at the West Wisconsin Technical College.

Host Community

LaCrosse, a city of 50,000 on the Mississippi River at the western edge of Wisconsin, is some 180 miles west of Milwaukee. The general unemployment rate is 5.0%, less than the U.S. average

For more information: Thai Vue, Associate Executive Director, La Crosse Hmong MAA, 326 S. 7th St., La Crosse, WI 54601 (608) 784-2704 (o)

* 71% of jobs are part-time, often held by people on assistance
** estimate does not include parttime workers

Hmong Community — **Madison, Wisconsin** (Dane County)

Number of Families: 110

Number of Individuals: 1,000

Largest Clans: Thao, Yang, Vang, Her

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		26
Families with one worker:		14
Families with two or more workers:		12
Common jobs for men:	human services cook, machinist	janitor assembly
Common jobs for women:	sewing assembly	teacher's aide
Average hourly wage:	men: $5.00	women: $5.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$10,400
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$20,800
Number of families with private medical insurance:		15

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	55*

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	6
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	20
Number of college graduates	3

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing steadily. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 40

MAA Status and Refugee Services

A funded MAA, and other supportive Wisconsin agencies, provide a variety of refugee services, such as ESL, placement, social, case management, mental health and resettlement services.

Host Community

Madison, a city of 170,000, is about 90 miles west of Milwaukee. It is the capital of the state and seat of the University of Wisconsin. The general unemployment rate is 3.8%, well below the U.S. average.

For more information: Yai Lee, United Refugee Services of Wisconsin, 1045 E. Dayton Rm. 302, Madison, WI 53703 (608) 256-6400 (o)

* it is estimated, for the community as a whole, that there are 55 part-time workers; many of them are in assistance families

Hmong Community **Manitowoc, Wisconsin** (Manitowoc County) Includes: Two Rivers

Number of Families: 112

Number of Individuals: 800

Largest Clans: Vang, Xiong, Yang, Lee

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		30 *
Families with one worker:		22
Families with two or more workers:		8
Common jobs for men:	factory work	assembly
	services	technician
Common jobs for women:	restaurant	assembly
Average hourly wage:	men: $9.00	women: $4.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$18,720
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$27,040
Number of families with private medical insurance:		22

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	82

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	3
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	2 (groceries)
Number of current college students	6
Number of college graduates	1

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 9

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Refugee services are provided by the local technical institute (vocational training) and the Employment Service (placement.) Unlike many Wisconsin communities the local MAA is not funded.

Host Community

Manitowoc is a city of 32,000, on the shores of Lake Michigan, about 30 miles north of Sheboygan and 100 miles north of Milwaukee. The general unemployment rate is 8.0%, which is above the U.S. average.

For more information: Ger Kue, President, Hmong MAA of Manitowoc, 2030 Andrea Lane, Manitowoc, WI 54220 (414) 682 0676 (o)

* about 40% of the jobs reported held by Hmong in the area are part-time; some are held by members of assistance families

Hmong Community — **Milwaukee, Wisconsin** (Milwaukee County)

Number of Families: 600

Number of Individuals: 3,000

Largest Clans: Thao, Vang, Xiong, Yang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	300	
Families with one worker:	15	
Families with two or more workers:	285	
Common jobs for men:	machine operator	auto mechanic
	human services	assembly
Common jobs for women:	sewing	assembly
	machine operator	services
Average hourly wage: men:	$6.50	women: $4.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$13,520
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$21,840
Number of families with private medical insurance:		45

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	300*

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	57
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	2 (groceries)
Number of current college students	30
Number of college graduates	15

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 70 - 80

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Milwaukee is one of the rare cities in which there is more than one funded Hmong MAA. See the next page for the names of these agencies and the services available to refugees in this city.

Host Community

Milwaukee, the largest city in Wisconsin, had 717,000 people in 1980. It is on Lake Michigan about 120 miles north of Chicago, and is a manufacturing center. The general unemployment rate is 5.3 %, a little less than the U.S. average.

For more information: contact MAAs listed on the next page.

* This is an MAA estimate; the authors found 212 (not 300) Hmong names on a printout of cash assistance cases for the County in May, 1988.

Additional Information on Milwaukee

Services Available

Several organizations provide services to refugees in this city. Resettlement of refugees as they first arrive is provided by the Catholic and Lutheran agencies and by the International Institute, among others. (The latter also provides naturalization courses.) As in other Wisconsin cities, the state-supported technical colleges provide vocational training to refugees.

Social services, including outreach, transportation, translation and other services are provided by the two agencies listed below.

Funded MAAs

Chia Thao, Executive Director,
Hmong American Friendship Association
2414 W. Vliet St.
Milwaukee, WI 53205

(414) 344 6576 (o)

Shoua Xiong, Director,
Lao Family Community
1420 W Scott St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 383 4180 (o)

Hmong Community — **Oshkosh, Wisconsin** (Winnebago County)

Number of Families: 105

Number of Individuals: 658

Largest Clans: Lor, Thao, Yang, Xiong

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	41	
Families with one worker:	22	
Families with two or more workers:	19	
Common jobs for men:	machine operator human services	assembly
Common jobs for women:	sewing factory work	assembly
Average hourly wage:	men: $8.00	women: $4.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$16,640
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$24,960
Number of families with private medical insurance:		20

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	64

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	5	
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	2	(grocery, video)
Number of current college students	15	
Number of college graduates	1	

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 30

MAA Status and Refugee Services

The local Hmong MAA, which is funded, provides a wide variety of refugee services (counselling, outreach and referral) while the Fox Valley Technical College provides vocational training.

Host Community

Oshkosh, a city of 50,000, is about 100 miles north and west of Milwaukee. The general unemployment rate is 5.4%, a little less than the U.S. average.

For more information: Pao Yang, Executive Director, Lao/Hmong American Association, 2929 Harrison St., Oshkosh, WI, 54901, (414) 426 0150 (o)

Hmong Community — **Sheboygan, Wisconsin** (Sheboygan County)

Number of Families: 230

Number of Individuals: 1,178

Largest Clans: Yang, Lee, Thao, Vue

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	102	
Families with one worker:	41	
Families with two or more workers:	61	
Common jobs for men:	machine operator	drafting
	human services	assembly
Common jobs for women:*	machine operator	sewing
	service work	human services
Average hourly wage: men:	$6.00	women: $4.50
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$12,480
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$21,840
Number of families with private medical insurance:		80

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	128

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	20	
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	1	(grocery)
Number of current college students	15	
Number of college graduates	0	

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing steadily. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 30

MAA Status and Refugee Services

The funded MAA provides a wide variety of refugee services, including a special program for the elderly; ESL is available and vocational training is provided by Lakeshore Technical Institute.

Host Community

Sheboygan is a city of 50,000 on Lake Michigan, some 60 miles north of Milwaukee. There are factories in the city, and farms surrounding the city. The general unemployment rate is 5.3%, a little less than the U.S. average.

For more information: Song Yang, Executive Director, Sheboygan Hmong MAA, 901 Superior Ave., Sheboygan, WI, 53081 (414) 458 0808 (o) or (414) 459 7651 (r)

* about 10% of the women's jobs are part-time

The Smaller Hmong Communities in Wisconsin

Number of Families: 108

Number of Individuals: 647

Largest Clans: n.a.

In addition to the twelve medium-sized to large Hmong communities described on the previous pages the Wisconsin State Refugee Coordinator's office reports that smaller groups of Hmong (and other former residents of Laos) are located in 21 other Wisconsin counties. The number of Hmong refugees known to the Coordinator's office are as follows:

County	Population
Washington	116
Dunn	91
Portage	69
Rusk	66
Green Lake	49
Marquette	33
Calumet	25
Green	22
Jefferson	22
Chippewa	20
Eleven other counties	134 *
Total of these counties	647

* The number of refugees in each these eleven counties ranges from three to nineteen; some are Hmong and some are Lowland Lao.

Note: Assuming that the incidence of welfare utilization in these 21 counties is about the same as elsewhere in Wisconsin, CZA estimates that 78 of the 108 families are receiving cash assistance.

IV. C. OTHER HIGHLAND LAO COMMUNITY PROFILES

Iu Mien

Khmu

Lahu

Lao Tinh

Lao Lue

Hmong Community — **Wausau, Wisconsin** (Marathon, Portage Counties)

Number of Families: 297

Number of Individuals: 1,800

Largest Clans: Yang, Xiong, Lor, Thao

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		85
Families with one worker:		55
Families with two or more workers:		30
Common jobs for men:	factory work	assembly
	farm laborer	human services
Common jobs for women:	factory work	services
	assembly	
Average hourly wage:	men: $6.50	women: $3.35*
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$13,520
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$20,488
Number of families with private medical insurance:		39

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	212

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	11
Number of Hmong-owned businesses	3 (groceries)
Number of current college students	20
Number of college graduates	6

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 100 or more.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Many refugee programs, including social and placement services, are provided by the funded MAA and the local Lutheran agency.

Host Community

Wausau, a city of 32,000, is about 150 miles north west of Milwaukee. Surrounded by farms, it is the home of a much-advertised insurance company. The general unemployment rate is 6.7 %, a little above the U.S. average.

For more information: Yi Vang, Executive Director, Wausau Area Hmong MAA, 1109 N 6th St., Wausau, WI 54401 (715) 842 8390 (o)

* The authors, noticing that this was the same level as the minimum wage, and the lowest wage level reported for any Hmong community in the nation, called the source back and were told that, in fact, these were women's wages in this area.

Hmong Community — **Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin** (Wood County)

Number of Families: 15

Number of Individuals: 75

Largest Clan: Khang

Employment:

Total number of families with workers: apparently none
Families with one worker: n.a.
Families with two or more workers: n.a.

Common jobs for men: n.a.
Common jobs for women: n.a.
Average hourly wage: men: n.a. women: n.a.
Average annual income, one-worker families: n.a.
Average annual income, multi-worker families: n.a.
Number of families with private medical insurance: 0

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare 15

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes 0
Number of Hmong-owned businesses 0
Number of current college students 0
Number of college graduates 0

Hmong population trends

Population has been growing since the community was founded in 1987. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 1

MAA Status and Refugee Services

There appear to be no refugee services available other than vocational education.

Host Community

Wisconsin Rapids, on the Wisconsin River, is a city of 17,000 about 130 miles north and west of Milwaukee. The general unemployment rate is 7.2, which is above the U.S. average.

For more information: Yang Blong Khang, 921 S 11th St., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 (715) 423 9563 (r)

Iu Mien Community — **Montgomery, Alabama** (Montgomery County)

Number of Families: 9

Number of Individuals: 65

Largest Clans: n.a.

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		9	
Families with one worker:		0	
Families with two or more workers:		9	
Common jobs for men:	factory work	assembly	
Common jobs for women:	factory work	assembly	
Average hourly wage:	men: $6.00	women:	$6.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:			n.a.
Average annual income, multi-worker families:			$24,960
Number of families with private medical insurance:			9

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	0

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	9
Number of Iu Mien-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	0
Number of college graduates	0

Population trends

The Iu Mien population has declined sharply since the early 1980s. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 1

MAA Status and Refugee Services

There is no Iu Mien MAA in the area and the refugee community senses a lack of refugee services.

Host Community

Montgomery, a city of 178,000 is the capital of Alabama. The general unemployment rate is 6.4%, a little over the U.S. average.

For more information: Kaota Sae-Chao, 801 Rialto Drive, Montgomery, AL (205) 277 9428 (r)

Iu Mien Community — **Merced, California** (Merced County)

Number of Families: 159*

Number of Individuals: 1,065*

Largest Clans: Saechao, Saelee, Saefong, Saephanh

Employment: (There is little information on employment)

Total number of families with workers:	15**
Families with one worker:	n.d.
Families with two or more workers:	probably none
Common jobs for men:	n.d.
Common jobs for women:	n.d.
Average hourly wage: men:	n.d.
women:	n.d.
Average annual income, one-worker families:	n.d.
Average annual income, multi-worker families:	n.d.
Number of families with private medical insurance:	n.d.

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	159*

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	0
Number of Iu Mien-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	1
Number of college graduates	0

Population trends The Iu Mein population has been growing. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: not known; it is estimated that 20 families have arrived during 1988.

MAA Status and Refugee Services Refugee services are provided by Lao Family community, which has an Iu Mien staff member, and by a local Mien church and the Iu Mien Community Temple.

Host Community Merced is a city of 36,000 some 60 miles north and west of Fresno. There are both farms and factories nearby. The general unemployment rate is 11%, above the U.S. average.

For more information: Lao Family Community, 855 W 15th St., Merced, CA, 95340, (209) 384 7384 (o); Kaoseng Saechao, Chair, Iu Mien Community Temple, 741 M. St., Merced CA, 95340, (209) 723 3346 (r), or Saengwang Saelee, 264 E 11th St., Merced, CA, 95340, (209) 723 6534 (r).

* There were different estimates of the number of families; the County social services agency had 159 Iu Mien cash assistance cases; LFC said that there were 117 families, and other sources said 150 families. We used LFC's 6.7 persons per family to estimate the total population. There are also some 20 Iu Mien families in Fresno on whom we have no detailed information.
** Although there are 15 workers, mostly young males, apparently they belong to families on cash assistance.

Iu Mien Community — **Sacramento, California** (Sacramento County) — Includes: North Highland

Number of Families: 188

Number of Individuals: 1,500

Largest Clans: Saechao, Saephan, Saelee

Employment: (Employment information is incomplete)

Total number of families with workers:	15
Families with one worker:	n.d.
Families with two or more workers:	n.d.

Common jobs for men:	n.d.
Common jobs for women:	n.d.
Average hourly wage: men:	n.d. women: n.d.
Average annual income, one-worker families:	n.d.
Average annual income, multi-worker families:	n.d.
Number of families with private medical insurance:	n.d.

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	173*

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	0
Number of Iu Mien-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	15
Number of college graduates	0

Population trends

The Iu Mien population has been growing. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: n.d.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Refugee services are provided by, among others, the local office of Lao Family Community. There is no Iu Mien MAA.

Host Community

Sacramento, a city of 275,000, is located in the Central Valley of California (a farming region) about 80 miles north and east of San Francisco. It is the state capital. The general unemployment rate is 6.0%, just about the U.S. average.

For more information: Chan Yoon Saechao, 4930 Polk St., # 15, North Highland, CA, 95660 (916) 334 3282 (r)

* This may be a low estimate. The County's Human Resources Department counted 1779 individual Mien on its assistance rolls in 1986.

Iu Mien Community — **San Francisco Bay Area** (Alameda and other Counties)

Includes: Oakland, Richmond, San Francisco, San Jose, Suisan City

Number of Families: 960

Number of Individuals: 4,800

Largest Clans: Chao, Lee, Phan

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		192
Families with one worker:		77
Families with two or more workers:		115
Common jobs for men:	human services, assembly	auto mechanic, sales
Common jobs for women:	assembly, services	housekeeping, clerical aide
Average hourly wage:	men: $8.00	women: $7.50
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$16,640
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$32,240
Number of families with private medical insurance:		48

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	768

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	75
Number of Iu Mien-owned businesses	10 + *
Number of current college students	100
Number of college graduates	10

Population trends

The Iu Mien population has been growing. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 100. In addition to the Iu Mien described on this page, there is another community, of some 100 families in Redding, CA, for which detailed data are lacking. Redding is 200 miles north of San Francisco.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Many refugee services, ESL, social services, youth counselling, and economic and leadership development programs are provided by the Iu Mien staff of the Lao Family Community office in Oakland.

Host Community

The Iu Mien are living in towns around San Francisco Bay. The unemployment rate in the area is 3.8%, below the U.S. average.

For more information: Chao Sarn Chao, Director, Lao Family Community, 534 22nd Street, Oakland, CA 94612 (415) 451 6878 (o) or (415) 237 0344 (r)

* includes one or more restaurants, grocery stores, service stations, and landscaping, janitorial and financial services

Iu Mien Community — **Visalia, California** (Tulare County)

Number of Families: 105

Number of Individuals: 667

Largest Clans: n.d.

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	15
Families with one worker:	15
Families with two or more workers:	0
Common jobs for men:	n.d.
Common jobs for women:	n.a *
Average hourly wage: men:	$5.00
women:	n.a.*
Average annual income, one-worker families:	$10,400
Average annual income, multi-worker families:	n.a.
Number of families with private medical insurance:	n.d.

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	90

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	0
Number of Iu Mien-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	8
Number of college graduates	3

Population trends

The Iu Mien population has been growing. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 5

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Although there is no Iu Mien MAA, refugee services are provided by both Lao Family Community and the MAA Consortium, the former, at least, has a Iu Mien speaker on its staff.

Host Community

Visalia, a city of 56,000 is in a farming area 25 miles south and east of Fresno, and 125 miles north and west of Los Angeles. The general unemployment rate is 10.5%, well above the U.S. average.

For more information: Kou L. Vang, Executive Director, Lao Family Community, 247 W. Ferguson Ave., Visalia, CA, 93291 (209) 738 3371 (o) or Yao Fong Saephan (209) 627 1238

* Few, if any, Iu Mien women work in this community

Iu Mien Community — **Portland, Oregon** (Multnomah County) — Includes: Aloha, Hillsboro, Salem

Number of Families: 200

Number of Individuals: 1,500

Largest Clans: n.a.

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	130
Families with one worker:	31
Families with two or more workers:	99
Common jobs for men:	factory work, assembly, nursery work, machine shop
Common jobs for women:	electronic assembly, sewing
Average hourly wage: men:	$6.00
women:	$5.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:	$12,480
Average annual income, multi-worker families:	$22,880
Number of families with private medical insurance:	92

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	70

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	66
Number of Iu Mien-owned businesses	1 (restaurant)
Number of current college students	30
Number of college graduates	10

Population trends

The Iu Mien population has declined substantially since 1980. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 80

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Refugee services, such as ESL and vocational training, are provided by several voluntary agencies, including the International Refugee Services Center. There is an Iu Mien MAA but it apparently is not funded.

Host Community

Portland, the principal city in Oregon, has 370,000 population and is in the north-west corner of the state. The general unemployment rate is 5.3%, which is less than the U.S. average.

For more information: Sanseng Saephan, President, Yiu-Mien Association of Oregon, 3105 NE 108th Ave.,Portland, OR, 97220 (503) 252 8709 (o)

Iu Mien Community — **Seattle, Washington** (King County)

Note: The two Iu Mien communities in this city asked to be listed separately; the community in this profile consists of people from the southern part of Laos, who follow the traditional religion.

Number of Families: 75

Number of Individuals: 278

Largest Clans: n.a.

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		30	
Families with one worker:		10	
Families with two or more workers:		20	
Common jobs for men:	service work		maintenance
Common jobs for women:	housekeeping		sewing
Average hourly wage:	men: $4.50	women:	$4.50
Average annual income, one-worker families:			$9,360
Average annual income, multi-worker families:			$18,720
Number of families with private medical insurance:			12

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	45

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	5
Number of Iu Mien-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	0
Number of college graduates	0

Population trends

The Iu Mien population has declined sharply in recent years. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 50 - 60 but many of these subsequently left for California.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

When asked about provision of refugee services this group named the community temple, (address shown below). Refugee services are also provided by voluntary agencies in the area.

Host Community

Seattle, a city of 494,000 is in the north west corner of the state, and is located on an arm of the Pacific Ocean. The general unemployment rate is 6.1%, roughly the U.S. average.

For more information: Saeng Ching Saepheurn, President, Mien Community Temple, 2811 19th Ave. S, Seattle, WA 98144 (206) 322 9267 (r)

Iu Mien Community — **Seattle, Washington** (King County)

Note: As indicated on the previous page, the two Iu Mien communities in this city asked to be listed separately. This profile covers people from the northern part of Laos, a Christian group.

Number of Families: 77

Number of Individuals: 478

Largest Clans: n.a.

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		57	
Families with one worker:		20	
Families with two or more workers:		37	
Common jobs for men:	teacher's aide services	maintenance	
Common jobs for women:	nurse's aide teacher's aide	services	
Average hourly wage:	men: $6.00	women:	$5.50
Average annual income, one-worker families:			$12,480
Average annual income, multi-worker families:			$23,920
Number of families with private medical insurance:			31

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	20	

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	19	
Number of Iu Mien-owned businesses	2	(laundry, restaurant)
Number of current college students	6	
Number of college graduates	0	

Population trends

The Iu Mien population has been declining. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 15

MAA Status and Refugee Services

This community is served by an unfunded MAA, and other refugee services, such as ESL and vocational training, are provided by voluntary agencies.

Host Community

Seattle, a city of 494,000 is in the north west corner of the state, and is located on an arm of the Pacific Ocean. The general unemployment rate is 6.1%, roughly the U.S. average.

For more information: Yao Fou-inh Chao, President, Yieu-Mien Assn. of Washington, 3311 Lafayette Ave. S, Seattle, WA 98144

Khmu Community — **Richmond, California** (Contra Costa and Marin Counties) — Includes: San Pablo, San Rafael

Number of Families: 110

Number of Individuals: 600 +

Largest Clans: n.a.

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	30	
Families with one worker:	3	
Families with two or more workers:	27	
Common jobs for men:	assembly	busboy
	dishwasher	teacher's aide
Common jobs for women:*	childcare	jewelry worker
	housekeeping	assembly
Average hourly wage: men:	$6.00	women: $5.50
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$12,480
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$23,920
Number of families with private medical insurance:		17

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare: 80

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	7
Number of Khmu-owned businesses	2 (groceries)
Number of current college students	8
Number of college graduates	2

Khmu population trends

Population has been growing slowly. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 16

MAA Status and Refugee Services

There is both a Khmu MAA, whose address is noted below and which is unfunded, and a funded Lao Family Community office in nearby Oakland; the latter provides ESL, social and other services and has Khmu-speaking staff.

Host Community

These three cities are in the 30,000 - 70,000 population range, are near San Francisco Bay and north of Oakland. The general unemployment rate is 5.0 %, a little less than the U.S. average.

For more information: Khammanh Phongboupha, President, Lao Khmu American Community of Bay Area, 66 Margorie Drive, San Pablo, CA, 94806. (415) 451 6878 (o)

* about one third of the women's jobs are part-time

Khmu Community Santa Ana, California (Orange County)

Number of Families: 20

Number of Individuals: 100

Largest Clans: n.a.

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		18
Families with one worker:		0
Families with two or more workers:		18
Common jobs for men:	factory work	laborer
	human services	assembly
Common jobs for women:	same as for the men	
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.00	women: $7.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		n.a.
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$29,120
Number of families with private medical insurance:		18

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	2

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	2
Number of Khmu-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	3
Number of college graduates	2

Population trends

The Khmu population has been declining in recent years. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 10, but many left later.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

There is no Khmu MAA, but the community is served by the Santa Ana office of Lao Family Community which has Khmu staff.

Host Community

Santa Ana is a city of 200,000 about 40 miles east of Los Angeles. The general unemployment rate is 3.3%, well below the U.S. average.

For more information: Khammeung Manokoune, President, Khmu Family of America, Apt. A, 1438 S. Townsend, Santa Ana, CA, 92704 (714) 641 3704 (r) or (714) 556 9520 (o)

Khmu Community — **Stockton, California** (San Joaquin County)

Number of Families: 150

Number of Individuals: 500

Largest Clans: n.a.

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	75	
Families with one worker:	8	
Families with two or more workers:	67	
Common jobs for men:	human services assembly	factory work services
Common jobs for women:*	factory work	assembly
Average hourly wage: men:	$6.00	women: $5.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$12,480
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$22,880
Number of families with private medical insurance:		56

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	75

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	3
Number of Khmu-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	6
Number of college graduates	3

Population trends

The Khmu population has been growing slowly. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 6

MAA Status and Refugee Services

A funded Khmu MAA provides ESL and social services; other agencies provide vocational training.

Host Community

Stockton, a city of 150,000, is in a farming area, the Central Valley of California, about 65 miles east of San Francisco. The general unemployment rate is 9.9%, well above the U.S. average.

For more information: Boun Heuang Khoonsrivong, Executive Director, Lao Khmu Association, # 7 425 N. California St., Stockton, CA, 95202, (209) 463 3410 (o)

* about 15% of the women's jobs are part-time

Khmu Community **Allston, Massachusetts** (Suffolk County) Includes: Brighton, Dorchester, Jamaica Plain

Number of Families: 15

Number of Individuals: 70

Largest Clans: n.a.

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	15	
Families with one worker:	n.d.	
Families with two or more workers:	n.d.	
Common jobs for men:	factory work	assembly
Common jobs for women:	factory work assembly	hotel maid
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.50	women: $6.50
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$15,600
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$29,120
Number of families with private medical insurance:		n.d.

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	0

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	0
Number of Khmu-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	0
Number of college graduates	0

Population trends

The Khmu population has been declining slowly. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 2. The only other Khmu community on the East Coast is a group of four families in High Point, North Carolina, more than six hundred miles to the south.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

There is a Khmu MAA, funded by the government, which provides social services, day care, ESL, vocational training and family counseling.

Host Community

The four communities are either inner suburbs of, or parts of, the City of Boston. The general unemployment rate of Boston is 2.7%, or about half the U.S. average.

For more information: Toi Vongnathet, Executive Director, Khmu Family Association of Massachusetts, 41 Quint Ave., Allston, MA, 02134 (617) 789 3879 (o) or (617) 782 4427 (r)

Khmu Community — Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (Oklahoma County)

Number of Families: 17

Number of Individuals: 117

Largest Clans: n.a.

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	17	
Families with one worker:	2	
Families with two or more workers:	15	
Common jobs for men:	factory work	assembly
Common jobs for women:	factory work	assembly
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.00	women: $5.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$14,560
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$24,960
Number of families with private medical insurance:		12

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	0

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	12
Number of Khmu-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	2
Number of college graduates	2

Population trends

The Khmu population has been declining slowly. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 4

MAA Status and Refugee Services

There is no funded MAA. Access to refugee services appears to the community to be limited.

Host Community

Oklahoma City has a population of 400,000, and is the largest city and capital of Oklahoma. Traditionally the economy was based on oil. The general unemployment rate is 6.0%, about the U.S. average.

For more information: Khampheng Moses Saynyarack, President, Khmu Refugee Association, 1305 NW Third, Oklahoma City, OK, 73106, (405) 235 3031 (r)

Khmu Community Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas (Dallas and Tarrant Counties)

Number of Families: 14

Number of Individuals: 70

Largest Clans: n.a

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	14	
Families with one worker:	2	
Families with two or more workers:	12	
Common jobs for men:	assembly welder	machinist
Common jobs for women:	clerical aide housekeeping	assembly
Average hourly wage:	men: $7.50	women: $6.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$15,600
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$28,080
Number of families with private medical insurance:		14

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	0

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	7
Number of Khmu-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	3
Number of college graduates	0

Population trends

The Khmu population has been growing slowly. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 1

MAA Status and Refugee Services

A variety of placement and social services are provided to all refugees by the Hmong organization listed below, including relocation assistance under the Planned Secondary Resettlement (PSR) program. PSR helps eligible refugees (those unemployed and/or on welfare) move, finds them housing (and helps pay for it at first), and finds jobs. It is one of five agencies providing PSR services in the nation. There is no Khmu MAA.

Host Community Dallas is a major city (of 900,000) in north central Texas. The general unemployment rate is 6.3 %, about the U.S. average.

For more information: Thao Phia Xaykao, Executive Director, Hmong American Planning and Development Center, Suite P, 921 W. Highway 303, Grand Prairie, TX, 75051, (214) 988 0502 (o). Another source is Khamset Sayavong, President, Khmu Community, 3066 Gene Lane, Haltom City, TX, 76117 (817) 838 5292 (r)

Khmu Community — Seattle, Washington (King County)

Number of Families: 56

Number of Individuals: 256

Largest Clans: n.a.

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	37	
Families with one worker:	17	
Families with two or more workers:	20	
Common jobs for men:	factory work	assembly
	janitor	services
Common jobs for women:	factory work	sewing
	assembly	housekeeping
Average hourly wage:	men: $5.50	women: $4.50
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$11,440
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$20,800
Number of families with private medical insurance:		35

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	19

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	2
Number of Khmu-owned businesses	1 (sewing subcontractor)
Number of current college students	7
Number of college graduates	0

Population trends

The Khmu population has been growing slowly. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 6

MAA Status and Refugee Services

While there is a Khmu MAA, it is not funded, and the community senses that it lacks ready access to refugee services.

Host Community

Seattle, a city of 493,000, is on an arm of the Pacific Ocean in the western part of the state. The general unemployment rate is 6.1%, roughly the U.S. average.

For more information: Bountha Choulaphan, President, Khmu Association of Washington, 7331 35th Ave.South, Seattle, WA, 98118, (206) 721 5106 (r)

Lahu Community — **Visalia, California** (Tulare County)

Number of Families: 74

Number of Individuals: 391

Largest Clan: Saesee

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	5
Families with one worker:	4
Families with two or more workers:	1
Common jobs for men:	Tulare County Conservation Corps*
Common jobs for women:	teacher's aide
Average hourly wage: men: n.d.	women: n.d.
Average annual income, one-worker families:	n.d.
Average annual income, multi-worker families:	n.d.
Number of families with private medical insurance:	0

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	69

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	0
Number of Lahu-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	0
Number of college graduates	0

Population trends

The Lahu population has been growing. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 3

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Refugee services are provided by the local office of Lao Family Community, which has a parttime employe who speaks Lahu.

Host Community

Visalia, a city of 56,000 is in a farming area 25 miles south and east of Fresno, and 125 miles north and west of Los Angeles. The general unemployment rate is 10.5%, well above the U.S. average.

For more information: Kou L. Vang, Executive Director, Lao Family Community, 247 W. Ferguson Ave., Visalia, CA, 93291 (209) 738 3371 (o) or Moody Tarharichakul, a priest, 824 N. Willis, Visalia, CA, 93291 (209) 627 2573 (r)

* The State-funded Tulare County Conservation Corps provides work-experience and training to young men, principally in forest work. It, the local school and the MAA have provided virtually all paid employment experienced by the Lahu.

Lahu Community — **Rochester, Minnesota** (Olmsted County)

Number of Families: 11

Number of Individuals: 45

Largest Clans: n.a.

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	1
Families with one worker:	1
Families with two or more workers:	0

Common jobs for men:	janitor		
Common jobs for women:	n.a.		
Average hourly wage:	men: *	women:	n.a.
Average annual income, one-worker families:			*
Average annual income, multi-worker families:			n.a.
Number of families with private medical insurance:			n.d.

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	10

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	0
Number of Lahu-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	0
Number of college graduates	0

Population trends

The Lahu population has been growing. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: at least six.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Employment and social services are provided by a multi-ethnic MAA, and other refugee services are provided by voluntary agencies. Vocational training can be secured from the Rochester Technical Institute.

Host Community

Rochester is a city of 57,000, some 79 miles south and east of St.Paul; it is a commercial center in a rural area; the general unemployment rate is 4.0 %, which is less than the U.S. average.

For more information: Willian Yang, Employment Director, Intercultural MAA, 16 SW 7th Ave., Rochester, MN, 55902 (507) 289-5960 (o)

Lao Tinh Community — Rochester, Minnesota (Olmsted County)

Number of Families: 35

Number of Individuals: 220

Largest Clans: n.a.

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:	27	
Families with one worker:	4	
Families with two or more workers:	23	
Common jobs for men:	janitor baker	meat processing
Common jobs for women:	same for women	
Average hourly wage:	men: $5.00	women: $5.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$10,400
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$20,800
Number of families with private medical insurance:		9

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare	8

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	2
Number of Lao Tinh-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	0
Number of college graduates	0

Population trends

The Lao Tinh population has been growing. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 25. Another name for this group is Prai.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

Employment and social services are provided by a multi-ethnic MAA, and other refugee services are provided by voluntary agencies. Vocational training can be secured from the Rochester Technical Institute. There is no Lao Tinh MAA.

Host Community

Rochester is a city of 57,000, some 79 miles south and east of St.Paul; it is a commercial center in a rural area; the general unemployment rate is 4.0 %, less than the U.S. average.

For more information: Willian Yang, Employment Director, Intercultural MAA, 16 SW 7th Ave., Rochester, MN, 55902 (507) 289-5960 (o)

Lao Lue Community — **Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas** (Dallas and Tarrant Counties)

Number of Families: 24

Number of Individuals: 120

Largest Clans: n.a.

Employment:

Total number of families with workers:		24
Families with one worker:		1
Families with two or more workers:		23
Common jobs for men:	metal fabrication electronic assembly	welder
Common jobs for women:	electronic assembly warehouse aide	sewing
Average hourly wage:	men: $6.50	women: $5.00
Average annual income, one-worker families:		$13,520
Average annual income, multi-worker families:		$23,920
Number of families with private medical insurance:		23

Welfare utilization

Number of families on welfare: 0 (one individual on SSI)

Other indicators

Number of families who own homes	0
Number of Lao Lue-owned businesses	0
Number of current college students	0
Number of college graduates	0

Population trends

The Lao Lue population has been growing. Number of new families from overseas since May 1, 1985: 3. There may also be Lao Lue communities in the San Francisco Bay area and in Colorado but we could secure no detailed information on them. There are 17-20 Lao Lue living in Rochester, Minnesota; that community consists of four two-worker families, their children, and two older people.

MAA Status and Refugee Services

A variety of placement and social services are provided to Lao Lue and other refugees by the Hmong American Planning and Development Center of Grand Prairie, Texas, including relocation assistance under the Planned Secondary Resettlement (PSR) program. PSR helps eligible refugees (those unemployed and/or on welfare) move, finds them housing (and helps pay for it at first), and finds jobs. It is one of the five agencies offering PSR services in the nation. There is no Lao Lue MAA.

Host Community and For more information: See these sections of the profiles of Hmong and Khmu communities in Dallas-Fort Worth earlier in this document.